

NATION

Moderates vie with Sanders, Warren in Democratic debate

Page 8



FACES

Tarantino's films, from worst to best
Page 18



WAR

Troops killed in insider attack ID'd
Page 2

Chiefs' Patrick Mahomes living up to 'Showtime' nickname » Back page

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N. Korea test-fires 2 more missiles

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea test-fired two short-range ballistic missiles off its eastern coast Wednesday for the second time in just under a week, South Korea's military said, casting a shadow over hopes that nuclear talks may resume soon.

The launch raises pressure on the Unit-

ed States as it tries to restart talks aimed at persuading the North to abandon its nuclear weapons. North Korea is likely angling to increase its leverage in negotiations while expressing anger over planned joint U.S.-South Korean military exercises and continued sanctions, experts said.

The missiles flew about 155 miles from the town of Wonsan and reached an altitude of less than 20 miles before splashing

into the sea, according to the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The first one was launched at 5:06 a.m. and the second at 5:27 a.m., it said, updating its earlier statement that "several projectiles" had been fired.

Military officials said the North launched the missiles from a truck. The South tracked the flights using intelligence assets, including radar and a destroyer

equipped with an Aegis combat system.

"The repeated missile launches by North Korea are not helpful to efforts to ease tensions on the Korean Peninsula and we urge North Korea to stop this behavior," the South's Joint Chiefs said.

The South Koreans and Americans were still analyzing the launch for more details.

SEE MISSILES ON PAGE 4



Brothers in arms

11 Alabama siblings served total of 158 years in US military

By ADRIAN SAINZ
Associated Press

TUNICA, Miss. — The sons of Ben and Hatie Davis give special meaning to the term "band of brothers."

Eleven in all, the brothers raised on a family farm in rural Alabama have a combined 158 years of service to the U.S. military.

Seven of the 11 gathered recently in Missis-

sippi for a reunion thick with brotherly love and military pride. They laughed together, told stories from their days growing up and serving the country and reminisced about what it was like to be black in the U.S. military in the 20th century.

But in the end, they talked less about racism than the lack of respect all veterans feel from their fellow Americans.

"Being in the military, it was a fine thing,"

said Lebronze Davis, who fought in the Vietnam War and has survived cancer and heart surgery. "We all think we've done an outstanding job."

In 2017, the Davis men were honored by the National Infantry Museum Foundation. The names of the 11 brothers and their uncle are engraved on four paving stones installed at the museum.

SEE BROTHERS ON PAGE 7

Seven Davis brothers — Eddie, Frederick, Arguster, Octavious, Nathaniel, Julius and Lebronze, from left — chat during a reunion at a hotel-casino July 12 in Tunica, Miss.

ADRIAN SAINZ/AP

WAR ON TERRORISM

Two paratroopers killed in Afghanistan identified

By PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

The Pentagon has identified two American paratroopers who were killed in combat in Afghanistan on Monday.

Spc. Michael Nance, 24, of Chicago, and Pfc. Brandon Kreischer, 20, of Stryker, Ohio, died Monday in southern Uruzgan province from combat-related injuries, a Defense Department statement said Tuesday. The incident is under investigation.

Both soldiers were assigned to 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C., and were supporting the NATO-led Operation Freedom's Sentinel, the statement said.

"These young men were true all Americans and embodied the qualities of selfless service and courage as they answered our

nation's call to deploy to Afghanistan," Col. Arthur Sellers, commander of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, said in a statement.

Afghan officials told Stars and Stripes on Tuesday that both men were shot by an Afghan soldier at a military base in the Shah Wali Kot district in southern Kandahar province. The 82nd Airborne confirmed the soldiers were struck by small-arms fire in Kandahar.

The Pentagon said Nance and Kreischer died in Tarin Kot, the capital of Uruzgan province, which borders Shah Wali Kot, suggesting the pair were transported to a U.S. forward operating base located in Tarin Kot.

Ahmad Sadiq, a spokesman for the Afghan army's 205th Corps, said the attacker was wounded and taken into police custody.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yusuf Ahmad commended the attack in a statement, saying it was carried out by a "sensible Afghan soldier" although not one of the militant group's fighters.

The American paratroopers deployed to Afghanistan just weeks before they were killed.

Nance was on his first deployment to the country, according to family members who spoke with WMAQ-TV, Chicago's NBC affiliate.

"He loved his country and wanted to serve his country," Nance's cousin, Trevor Harris, told the television station. "He died doing something that he loved."

Nance joined the Army in 2017. His awards include the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart. His remains were returned to



Nance



Kreischer

spirational. He was upbeat. He was such a go-getter," Annette Bowers, a co-owner of the gym, added.

Kreischer is survived by his wife, of Fayetteville, N.C. His awards also include the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart.

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HAMED SARFARAZI/AP

Afghans assist a wounded man in a hospital after a roadside bomb tore through a bus in western Afghanistan on Wednesday.

At least 32 killed when Afghan bus hits bomb

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A roadside bomb tore through a bus in western Afghanistan on Wednesday, killing at least 32 people, including children, a provincial official said.

Mohibullah Mohib, spokesman for the police chief in Farah province, said 15 others were wounded with most in critical condition, indicating the death toll could rise.

The bus was traveling on a main highway between the western city of Herat and the southern city of Kandahar.

No one immediately claimed responsibility, but Taliban insurgents operate in the region and frequently use roadside bombs to target government officials and security forces. The Taliban have kept up a steady tempo of attacks even as they have held several rounds of peace talks with the U.S. aimed at ending the war.

The attack came a day after the U.N. mission in Afghanistan released a report saying that most civilian deaths in the first half of the year were caused by Afghan forces and their international allies. The report apparently referred to civilians killed during Afghan and U.S. military operations against insurgents.

The U.N. said the leading cause of civilian deaths and injuries was "ground engagements," which caused one in three casualties. Roadside bombs were a close second, accounting for 28%. Afghanistan is one of the most heavily mined countries in the world — a legacy of decades of war.

A spokesman for President Ashraf Ghani on Wednesday disputed the results and methodology of the U.N. report. Sediq Sediqi said the Taliban were the "major cause" of civilian deaths and accused them of targeting schools, mosques and hospitals.

Correction

A July 30 story should have stated that family members of the 49 sailors who died aboard USS Eagle PE-56 when it was sunk by a Nazi U-boat on April 23, 1945, and survivors of the attack were first presented Purple Heart medals in June 2002.

TODAY
IN STRIPES

American Roundup	17
Business	21
Classified	19, 23
Comics	22
Crossword	22
Faces	18
Opinion	20
Sports	25-32
Weather	21

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MILITARY

Immigrant recruits dropped for having foreign ties

By ALEX HORTON
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — In the past month, the Pentagon booted two Chinese recruits from the enlistment process because of their dead grandfathers, who lived very different lives.

One recruit's grandfather, whom he never met, served in the communist military. Another recruit was removed from the program after drilling for three years because of the polar opposite — Zicheng Li's grandfather fought against, and was tortured by, China's Communist Party, defense officials wrote.

Screening documents obtained by The Washington Post detailing reasons that these and other foreign recruits were removed from the military reveal a pattern of canceled enlistments and failed screenings for rather innocuous fact-of-life events and, often, simply for existing as foreigners.

Immigrant enlistees have been cut loose for being the children of foreign parents or for having family ties to the their native government or military. In some cases, they have relatives who served in militaries closely allied with the United States. Those removals raise questions about the Pentagon's screening process and why

‘I'm shocked and numb. They use anything they can to kick us out.’

Zicheng Li

Army recruit in the Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest program

it has weeded out precisely the recruits defense officials said they needed.

The Pentagon program they were recruited under called for a simple idea: The military would enlist immigrants to harness strategic language and medical abilities in short supply among U.S.-born troops, calling the skills of immigrants a national security imperative.

The program was even named in that fashion — Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest, or MAVNI, which enlisted more than 10,400 foreign troops in the past decade, with the promise of fast-tracked naturalization that would take weeks. Mandarin Chinese, Russian, Arabic and other speakers have been in demand by defense officials.

Then denials began to quicken since stricter screening was implemented in late 2016, an attorney for immigrant recruits said, pointing to family ties as a common reason.

Li, who arrived in Minnesota from China in 2012 to study aerospace engineering, told The Post that his Army enlistment had crawled since February 2016. In that time, he attended drills as a selected reservist and received his uniform and an ID card that grants him access to Army installations.

Then this month, after three years of waiting, an enlistment denial justification letter arrived in his mailbox, containing two sentences about family history.

Li told investigators that his since-deceased grandfather's torture decades ago by communists prompted worry of reprisals if the Chinese government learned of Li's enlistment. "You revealed that you fear for your family's safety," officials wrote in a letter, saying his suitability for enlistment is adverse.

"I'm shocked and numb," Li said. "They use anything they can to kick us out."

The new vetting process has

delayed enlistments by years, and the wait has turned more than 1,000 recruits — who enlisted as legal immigrants with visas — into unlawful immigrants whose credentials expired as their screenings tumbled through bureaucratic limbo.

The Pentagon has acknowledged in court filings that more than 1,000 recruits who later naturalized from the program have been charged with espionage-related crimes, though one Chinese recruit has been accused of failing to register as a foreign agent. The new vetting procedures did not play a role in his detection, court filings said.

It is unclear how many immigrant recruits have been turned away as recruits or discharged as soldiers in recent months. In a spate of lawsuits alleging misconduct and violation of equal protection laws, the Pentagon has reversed decisions and halted discharges.

Defense officials have not offered public insight into how the vetting works or what kind of oversight exists. The results are typically explained in one or two sentences.

Another Chinese-born recruit, who declined to provide his name, told The Post he was denied enlistment last month because his

father and grandfather served in the communist military, though the report about his relatives' positions was inaccurate, he said.

His grandfather died before the recruit was born. "I don't know what the harm for me to finish my contract and gain my citizenship," he said.

MAVNI screening can be "time-consuming due to our limited ability" to verify information from home countries, said Jessica Maxwell, a Pentagon spokeswoman. She declined to address questions about the process itself and whether screeners adjust expectations of foreign ties if they are screening foreign people.

She also declined to say how many MAVNI recruits are still waiting for their screening to finish, citing litigation and privacy limitations.

Margaret Stock, an immigration attorney who has represented MAVNI recruits, including Li, said the Pentagon has scuttled millions of dollars and years of time to produce unclear reasons it separates immigrants the agency itself determined it needed.

"This is what they come up with? Your grandfather served in a foreign army before you were born?" Stock said. "What is the threat to national security? They can't articulate it here."

LONG-ESTABLISHED BUSINESS CLOSES! Total Clearance Sale in Ramstein due to immediate business closure.

RAMSTEIN, at "Sweet Home Ramstein", without exception, prices discounted up to a quarter of the value. For the family owners of the well-known home décor & furnishing specialty shop "Sweet Home Ramstein", the sales of exquisite rugs, furniture and accessories has been a passion for many years. With attention to detail, a truly unique collection was gathered during this time, thereby making the location in the center of Ramstein, 14 Landstuhler Strasse (telephone 06371 838 7557), one of the leading shops in terms of upscale living ambience.

But big names are not immune to the change of times: "Sweet Home Ramstein" is surprisingly closing its doors and the entire inventory has to be dissolved. The sales Manager, "We are realistic, the total sale of such a large assortment in the shortest possible time can only



be achieved with massive price advantages for the customers. The carpets, furniture and home accessories are therefore selling without exception up to 75% below their regular value!"



Countless oriental rugs are reduced, in all dimensions and patterns; from durable qualities to the finest knotting art of silk, from trendy designer rugs to timeless classics, from modern goods for young living to antique rarities of lasting value, complemented by precious home accessories and solid wood furniture. So that everyone can explore the entire collection, "Sweet Home Ramstein" is not only open on Thursday Aug 1st, Friday Aug 2nd, Saturday Aug 3rd, Monday Aug 5th, and Tuesday Aug 6th, from 10am to 6pm, but also on Sunday Aug 4th, between 12pm and 5pm, with sales and advice only at the legal time.

Missiles: Launches technically don't violate Kim's tests pledge

MILITARY

Military working dogs honored with new 'forever' stamp

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

The furriest members of the armed forces will grace the U.S. Postal Service's newest stamps to be released Thursday.

The new red, white and blue stamps featuring military working dogs were designed to "honor the nation's brave and loyal canines," according to a Postal Service statement last week.

The stamps will feature artist renderings of four breeds commonly used as military working dogs — German shepherd, Dutch shepherd, Labrador retriever and Belgian Malinois — according to an image of the stamps. In four stamps, each breed is pictured wearing a working harness, posing against a backdrop of a white star against a red or blue background.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael DeCarli, a master-at-arms at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, said

he plans to purchase a stamp and feels honored to have his profession featured on the classic icon.

DeCarli, of Evansville, Ind., deployed last year to Qatar and Syria with his military working dog, Adam. DeCarli and the 6-year-old German shepherd worked to detect explosives and went on patrols in the two countries from April to December 2018.

"Postage stamps for a long time have been a collector's item featuring important people and events," Decarli said. "To be considered in that, I feel very honored as part of the [dog-handler] community."

The U.S. has used military working dogs alongside service members since World War I, according to the U.S. War Dogs Association. Their senses of smell and sight "are literally superhuman," allowing dogs to do what servicemembers alone could not, according to the group.

Chief Petty Officer Autumn



U.S. Postal Service

The U.S. Postal Service is set to release these four new stamps featuring military working dogs on Thursday.

NoRunnerHerron, a master-at-arms and regional kennel master for Navy Region Japan, said in an email to Stars and Stripes that the stamps will build awareness among civilians, "helping them understand the contribution of the 1 percent that serve and the smaller percentage of those who earn the title of K9."

The military working dog stamps will be issued as "forever" stamps, meaning they "will always be equal in value to the current First-Class Mail 1-ounce price," according to the Post Office statement. Postage rates are 55 cents per stamp.

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Military supplier to pay \$11M over connectors

LOS ANGELES — A California company will pay the U.S. government \$11 million to settle allegations that it sold electrical connectors to the military that lacked proper testing or had failed tests.

The government announced July 23 that ITT Cannon also agreed to follow strict manufacturing and testing protocols. ITT did not acknowledge any liability.

The settlement resolves allegations filed in a whistleblower lawsuit by the former regional quality manager at ITT's Santa Ana facility.

70 months for ex-base worker in kickback case

LOS ANGELES — A former civilian employee at a California naval base who took \$1.2 million in kickbacks has been sentenced to 70 months in federal prison.

Fernando Barroso, who was a senior procurement official for Naval Base Ventura County, was sentenced July 22. He also was ordered to pay more than \$1 million in restitution.

In a plea agreement, Barroso acknowledged that in 2008 he and Theodore Bauer, who ran three maintenance companies, submitted false invoices for Navy work that wasn't performed.

From The Associated Press

**2019
YOKO
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SOFTBALL
TOURNAMENT**

Friday, Aug. 30 - Monday, Sept. 2

Yoko Bay is Yokosuka's annual softball tournament for all base teams in the Western Pacific. Teams must register by 5 p.m. on Friday, August 9 by email.

Registration fee is \$250.

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For details, please call 241-2955 or 046-896-2955.

MILITARY

IG: DOD workers buy Chinese gear with spying risks

By JOHN M. DONNELLY
Q&A Roll Call

WASHINGTON — Defense Department employees have procured thousands of printers, cameras and computers that carry known cybersecurity risks, and the practice may be continuing, according to an audit released Tuesday by the Pentagon's inspector general.

More than 9,000 commercially available information technology products bought in fiscal year 2018 could be used to spy on or hack U.S. military personnel and facilities, the report said. Without fixing oversight of such purchases, more risks lie ahead, potentially including perils for top-dollar weapons that use such "commercial-off-the-shelf," or COTS, devices.

The auditors also wrote that the Pentagon has a pattern of buying products from companies such as Huawei, ZTE or Kaspersky Lab long after other federal agencies have identified the companies as posing cybersecurity risks and rightly so. Until the point that Congress outlaws purchases from the companies. What's more, the report said the department's list of approved commercial products still includes some that can pose cyber risks, including computers made by Lenovo Group, China's largest computer manufacturer, whose products contain cyberespionage hardware and software, according to U.S. authorities.

"If the DoD continues to purchase and use COTS information technology items without identifying, assessing, and mitigating the known vulnerabilities associated with COTS information technology items, missions critical to national security could be compromised," said the declassified and formerly secret report, which remains partially redacted.

The Pentagon did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

The report is a window into part of a larger, well-documented Defense Department problem with cybersecurity that includes a history of harmful hacks that have led to the loss of vital military information and the continued vulnerability of numerous U.S. military computer systems.

The new audit showed, for example, that Army and Air Force personnel spent at least \$33 million in fiscal 2018 on suspect products. In particular:

They procured more than 8,000 printers from Lexmark, which has ties to China's security agencies. The printers could have been used to deny of attacks or conducted cyberespionage, the



In fiscal year 2018, Army and Air Force personnel procured more than 8,000 printers from Lexmark, which has ties to China's security agencies.

report said. Army and Air Force personnel also purchased 117 GoPro cameras that could access network credentials or video streams and even "take pictures without the user's knowledge."

Even though multiple government agencies have reported since 2006 that computers made by China's Lenovo pose cyberespionage risks, Air Force personnel bought 1,378 Lenovo products in fiscal 2018 and the Army bought 195. As a result of those purchases, the audit said, "the DoD increased its risk that adversaries could exploit known cybersecurity risks."

Military personnel buy commercial products either by using government credit cards or traditional acquisition methods.

The special credit cards may be used for certain items with a value at or below \$10,000. Congress has streamlined the process for using the cards and has increased the dollar threshold.

At issue are not just ordinary office products but also systems that connect to high-tech weapons. F-35 fighter jets use commercially available "internet of things" products to improve pilots' so-called situational awareness, the report said.

The auditors recommended that the Pentagon take a number of steps to improve the situation. Those include creating a process for identifying, testing and weeding out high-risk commercial products.

Defense Department officials' responses to the audit are included in the report but are blacked out. Regardless, the audit indicates that the Pentagon "did not address the specifics" of the recommendation for creating a special review process for commercial purchases. As a result, that proposal remains "unresolved."

The Pentagon lacks the proper policy and training to deal with the growing problem of risky purchases of commercial IT products, the audit found. Ellen Lord, the Pentagon acquisition chief, concurred with that recommendation, the report said.

DOD rebukes Oracle as debate on cloud contract turns caustic

By AARON GREGG
 AND JAY GREENE
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon issued an unusually strong rebuke of Oracle over the weekend, accusing the company of employing "poorly-informed and often manipulative speculation" in its efforts to undermine the military's process of awarding a massive 10-year contract for cloud computing technology.

The remarks were the latest flashpoint in the long-running dispute over the bidding process for the Joint Enterprise Defense Infrastructure, or JEDI, a \$10 billion contract that would be one of the federal government's most expensive information technology procurements ever.

Oracle alleged in a lawsuit that the Defense Department's bidding process has been plagued with potential conflicts of interest and rigged in favor of Amazon's cloud computing business. Oracle's attempt to block the award was rejected last month, with a judge explaining his reasoning in a lengthy document unsealed Friday. In his decision, the judge posed new questions about the Pentagon's legal argument for awarding the contract.

Department of Defense spokeswoman Elissa Smith noted in a statement that the judge also affirmed that the Pentagon was "reasonably justified" to award a single contract.

Despite the "tension" in the judge's ruling, the department has said it plans to move ahead and award the contract this month, nearly a year and a half after it was announced.

Smith's statement, which was emailed to reporters Sunday night, also contained the harsh words for Oracle. Smith appeared to take a second swipe at the company as well, saying: "DOD officials directly involved in the work of this procurement along with the senior leaders charged with making the critical decisions related to JEDI have always placed the interests of the warfighter first and have acted without bias, prejudice, or self-interest. The same cannot be said of all parties to the debate over JEDI."

Oracle declined to comment on Smith's remarks.

Oracle had argued that the cloud computing contract should be awarded to several companies. The Pentagon has said that it wants to award JEDI to a single provider and that only Amazon and Microsoft qualify. (Jeff Bezos, the founder and chief executive of Amazon, owns The Washington Post.)

The military's position prompted Oracle to sue to block the bidding. In its lawsuit, the company said the process had been "tainted" by the involvement of DOD officials who had close business ties to Amazon.

Oracle also took its concerns to a number of officials in Washington, as well as the White House, with co-CEO Safra Catz bringing

up the dispute in an April 2018 dinner with President Donald Trump.

In addition, Oracle Executive Vice President Ken Glueck, who runs the company's policy shop in Washington, said Monday that he created a colorful, one-page flow chart that featured photographs of Amazon executives as well as DOD officials in charge of the JEDI procurement with the title "A Conspiracy To Create A Ten Year DoD Cloud Monopoly." A profile picture of Trump's former defense secretary, Jim Mattis, was included.

When sent to The Washington Post, the document was labeled "Most Wanted."

When asked whether he emailed the document or physically handed it to lawmakers or other Washington officials, Glueck said no. But he said he shared it with his colleagues at Oracle.

He added that he hung a large version of it in the second-story window of his office and that it was photographed by CNN.

"There's new leadership at the DOD, which is an opportunity."

Ken Glueck
 Oracle executive
 vice president

Glueck posted that photo Friday and reported that the graphic had been viewed and discussed by Trump.

In response to a reporter's question during a news conference, Trump last month called for a fresh investigation into the JEDI contract, saying he had received complaints from "companies like Oracle, Microsoft and IBM."

While its request to block the award was rejected, Oracle is hoping that new leadership at the Pentagon will prompt another review of the JEDI procurement. Glueck said he "may write a letter" to newly confirmed Defense Secretary Mark Esper, adding, "There's new leadership at the DOD, which is an opportunity."

"There's very much a debate in the DOD over whether [awarding the \$10 billion contract to just one company] is the best approach," Glueck said.

The company's latest legal challenge failed in the Court of Federal Claims last month, when Judge Eric Bruggink rejected Oracle's motion to block the award.

It was the third time a bid protest had failed to permanently block the award; last year Oracle brought its case to the Government Accountability Office and was denied. A similar bid protest by IBM was dismissed.

In an extensive legal opinion unsealed Friday afternoon, Bruggink wrote that Oracle had not proved that it was materially harmed by the bidding process, a key requirement for successfully protesting government contract awards. But he also seemed to take issue with the Pentagon's legal justification for its decision to give the contract to a single

company, a concern that could be cited in a future bid protest.

In the only point on which he sided with Oracle, Bruggink ruled that a legal exception the Defense Department had used to justify its single-award approach "does not fit the contract" because of the way cloud technology advancements can be expected to affect pricing. He seemed to acknowledge a degree of ambiguity in how that decision should be interpreted, however.

Bruggink wrote that his conclusion was "in tension" with the court's previous rulings on the matter, something the DOD seized upon in its response.

"This peculiar state of affairs is an artifact of a code section which is a mixture, rather than an alloy, of various pieces of legislation," Bruggink wrote. "Not surprisingly, the parties have different views about the implications of this possible result."

Bruggink rejected Oracle's claim that a series of revolving-door hires on the part of Amazon should disqualify it from the competition. His decision also stated that Deep Ubi — an Amazon Web Services executive who joined the Pentagon and worked closely on the JEDI procurement process before returning to Amazon cloud business as a project manager — had lied to both Amazon and the DOD.

Ubi did not respond to phone and email requests for comment Monday. An Amazon spokesman did not respond to a request for comment for this story. Amazon has said Ubi has never worked for the company's division that deals with federal contracts.

Ubi worked as a business development representative for Amazon before joining the Pentagon's Defense Digital Service in August 2016. While working for the military, he separately operated a Silicon Valley-based startup called TableHero, which used cloud-based software to help restaurants build their business.

Ubi publicly praised Amazon while he worked at the Defense Department. For about seven weeks he worked on early planning for the JEDI procurement before recusing himself over "potential conflicts" due to "further partnership discussions" between TableHero and Amazon.

In response to Oracle's allegations that Ubi and other officials had biased the procurement in Amazon's favor, the DOD opened an investigation into Ubi's conduct, which forced the Pentagon to delay its award by several months.

Bruggink's ruling revealed that some of the information Ubi had provided to the military was false — and that Amazon was never interested in partnering with TableHero.

Bruggink also said Amazon Web Services rehired Ubi "without knowing that he had lied to DoD about his reason for resigning and lied to AWS about complying with DoD ethics rules."

MILITARY

Brothers: Siblings share memories of their military service

FROM FRONT PAGE

"What these brothers did out of love for both family and country is nothing short of remarkable," foundation president Pete Jones said in a statement to The Associated Press. "Their sense of duty is unrivaled, and is the kind of spirit that makes our nation's armed forces the greatest in the world."

Sixteen siblings — the 11 veterans, plus three sisters and two brothers who did not enter the military — grew up on a 60-acre cotton farm in Wetumpka, Ala., where their parents worked hard to put food on the table. Mom was the disciplinarian, dad had a softer approach.

"Their moral and ethical values were pristine," said Arguster, the youngest at 67 years old.

When the boys graduated high school, it seemed natural to enter the military.

Military experience runs long in the Davis family. The brothers' uncle, 99-year-old Master Sgt. Thomas Davis, survived Pearl Harbor's surprise attack.

Ben Jr. was the first brother to enlist. He joined the Navy in 1944, while World War II was still raging.

Arguster served in the Air Force for four years and then the

Air Force Reserve until 1998.

Lebronze, 70, saw the heaviest fighting of the group: He survived jungle ambushes as an Army soldier in Vietnam, where he developed advanced napping skills.

"I can go out in any bushes and sleep like a Holiday Inn," Lebronze said. "You learn how to do it because you are so tired. But guess what, you can hear a gnat go by you."

The brothers talk often, and try to get together every year. This year, seven of them traveled to Tunica, Miss., for some gambling and buffet action to celebrate three July birthdays. They spoke with an Associated Press reporter in a meeting room at the Horseshoe hotel.

The Davis roll call features a mix of personalities.

Octavius, the brothers agree, is the joker. An Army veteran, he drew riotous laughter when he told a bear-in-the-woods joke.

"We just like to get together and talk trash and just have a good time," said Octavius, 80. "All of us are close."

Lebronze is known as the straightforward brother. Brothers Frederick, 68 — the serious one — and the more practical Julius, 73, joined him in serving in the Army during Vietnam.

Eddie, 89, also served during



ADRIAN SAENZ/AP

From left: Eddie Davis and his brothers Julius, Octavius, Lebronze, Frederick, Arguster and Nathaniel pose for a photo behind a family picture during a reunion at a hotel-casino on July 12 in Tunica, Miss. The brothers and their family have a deep history of military service.

Vietnam, but that was just part of his 23-year career with the Army and Air Force. He has a more spiritual side, while Army veteran Nathaniel, 75, is no-nonsense.

Washington, a six-year Army veteran, has passed away. Ben, Alphonza, who served 29 years in the Army, and Calvin, who did four years in the Navy, couldn't attend.

In their years after serving, the brothers have worked for the U.S. Postal Service and the Bureau of Prisons, as electricians and businessmen. And they clearly have shared personality traits: friendliness, strong work ethic, mutual

respect. They remember being discriminated too, like the white-only drinking fountains and "colored-only" waiting areas they endured while growing up in the years of legal segregation.

"These were the norms we saw," Nathaniel said.

But the brothers said they didn't experience much racism in the military. Julius does recall when his base in Mobile, Ala., was put on alert the day Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn.

"Everybody thought that black people were going to tear the town

up," he said.

Octavius says the brothers don't often talk with one another about their military experiences. Lebronze won't watch war movies and he doesn't even dream about his time in Vietnam.

But they all boomed a collective "no" in response to one question: Are veterans respected as much today as in the past?

Arguster says he has grown weary of the overused phrase, "thank you for your service."

His preference? "I would much rather hear them say, 'Thank you for helping to keep this country free.'"

21st TSC in Europe gets a new leader

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Around 11,000 soldiers and civilians who support the Army's troop movements across Europe have a new leader.

Maj. Gen. Christopher O. Mohan took command Wednesday of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command, a unit whose role has greatly expanded across Eastern Europe.

Mohan, a career logistician, replaces Maj. Gen. Steve Shapiro, who led the command for two years.

The 21st TSC has underpinned the shift in military posture on the Continent since Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea and proxy war in Ukraine, helping move and sustain one of the largest influxes of forces and hardware back to Europe since the end of the Cold War.

The 21st TSC "is the engine that makes the U.S. Army in Europe go," U.S. Army Europe commander Lt. Gen. Christopher G. Cavoli told the hundreds

of personnel, civilians and allies assembled on the parade field at Daenner Kaserne.

The command "does everything we need to be able to prepare and to fight in this theater," he said, from offloading equipment brought by ship to escorting convoys to Eastern Europe and the Baltics, where rotations of U.S.-based troops train and work with allies to protect NATO's eastern flank.

"Moving a brigade across Europe and everyone knows their roles — that's deterrence," said Shapiro, who is to report to Rock Island, Ill., to lead the U.S. Army Sustainment Command.

The command expects to continue to support troop movements into the theater, Mohan said in an interview after the ceremony, including units called on to mobilize quickly from the States as part of a Pentagon strategy aimed at keeping adversaries off balance with more unpredictable troop movements.

"It's very important for our Army to work and regain the muscle memory of doing deploy-



Maj. Gen. Christopher O. Mohan

ments and deploying with all of our equipment from the continental United States to anywhere around the world," Mohan said.

For Mohan, it's his first assignment in Europe after two previous missed chances.

"We had orders in our hands and got the old phone call, 'Hey, you're going somewhere else,' twice before," he said. "We are absolutely thrilled to be here."

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Norquist is confirmed as deputy defense secretary

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — David Norquist was confirmed late Tuesday as the 34th deputy defense secretary by voice vote of the full Senate, as the upper chamber of Congress continues its spree of Defense Department appointments to fill several key leadership vacancies at the Pentagon.

Norquist has been performing the duties of deputy defense secretary since January when his predecessor, Pat Shanahan, became the acting defense secretary. Norquist also has been serving as the Pentagon's chief

financial officer since 2017. Shanahan resigned in June. After Defense Secretary Mark Esper was sworn in last week, he delegated the duties of deputy secretary to Navy Secretary Richard Spencer while Norquist went through the confirmation process.

With Norquist's confirmation secured, his deputy, Elaine McCusker, is expected to assume the role of acting comptroller until President Donald Trump nominates someone for the position.

Members of the Senate Armed Services Committee voiced support during a hearing last week of Norquist's nomination and confirmation.

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NATION

'Medicare for All' comes under fire in Dems' debate

By STEVE PEOPLES
AND SARA BURNETT
Associated Press

DETROIT — The signature domestic proposal by the leading progressive candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination came under withering attack from moderates in a debate that laid bare the struggle between a call for revolutionary policies and a desperate desire to defeat President Donald Trump.

Standing side by side at center stage Tuesday, Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren slapped back against their more cautious rivals who ridiculed "Medicare for All" and warned that "wish-list economics" would jeopardize Democrats' chances for taking the White House in 2020.

"I don't understand why anybody goes to all the trouble of running for president of the United States just to talk about what we really can't do and shouldn't fight for," said Warren, a Massachusetts senator, decrying Democratic "spinelessness."

Sanders, a Vermont senator, agreed: "I get a little bit tired of Democrats afraid of big ideas."

A full six months before the first votes are cast, the tug-of-war over the future of the party pits pragmatism against ideological purity as voters navigate a crowded Democratic field divided by age, race, sex and ideology. The fight with the political left was the dominant subplot on the first night of the second round of Democratic debates, which was notable as much for its tension as its substance.

Twenty candidates were to be spread evenly over two nights of debates. The second night was to feature early front-runner Joe Biden, the former vice president,

as well as Kamala Harris, a California senator.

While much of the debate was dominated by attacks on the preferred liberal health care policy, the issue of race emerged in the second hour. The candidates, all of whom are white, were unified in turning their anger toward Trump for using race as a central theme in his reelection campaign. Sanders called Trump a racist, while others said the president's rhetoric revived memories of the worst in the country's history, including slavery.

"The legacy of slavery and segregation and Jim Crow and suppression is alive and well in every aspect of the economy and the country today," said former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke, adding that he supported the creation of a panel to examine reparations for the descendants of slaves.

The marathon presidential primary season won't formally end for another year, but there was an increasing sense of urgency for many candidates who are fighting for survival. More than a dozen could be blocked from the next round of debates — and effectively pushed out of the race — if they fail to reach new polling and fundraising thresholds implemented by the Democratic National Committee.

Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, who is working to keep her campaign alive, aligned herself with the pragmatic wing: "We are more worried about winning an argument than winning an election."

Montana Gov. Steve Bullock, in his first debate appearance, took a swipe at Sanders: Working people "can't wait for a revolution," he charged. "Their problems are here and now."



PAUL SANCYA/AP

Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., and Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., talk during the first of two Democratic presidential primary debates hosted by CNN on Tuesday in Detroit.

'Health care is a human right, not a privilege. I believe that. I will fight for that.'

Bernie Sanders
Vermont senator

While he avoided any direct confrontations with his more liberal rivals, Pete Buttigieg tried several times to present himself as the more sober alternative in the race. He rejected extreme positions, quoted scripture and abstained from calling out his opponents.

The 37-year-old mayor of South Bend, Ind., also subtly emphasized the generational difference between himself and Sanders, the candidate 40 years his senior standing to his side.

Perhaps no issue illustrates the evolving divide within the Democratic Party more than health care.

Sanders' plan to provide free universal health care, known as Medicare for All, has become a litmus test for liberal candidates,

who have embraced the plan to transform the current system despite the political and practical risks. Medicare for All would abandon the private insurance market in favor of a taxpayer-funded system that would cover all Americans.

In targeting Medicare for All, the more moderate candidates consistently sought to undermine Sanders and Warren. The moderates variously derided Medicare for All as too costly, ineffective and a near-certain way to give Republicans the evidence they needed that Democrats supported socialism.

"They're running on telling half the country that their health care is illegal," said former Maryland Rep. John Delaney.

"We have a choice: We can go

down the road that Sen. Sanders and Sen. Warren want to take us, which is with bad policies like Medicare for All, free everything and impossible promises," he continued. "It will turn off independent voters and get Trump reelected."

Yet Sanders and Warren did not back down. While they are competing for the same set of liberal voters, there seemed to be no daylight between them.

"Health care is a human right, not a privilege. I believe that. I will fight for that," Sanders said.

Buttigieg called on his party to stop the infighting.

"It is time to stop worrying about what the Republicans will say," Buttigieg declared. "It's true that if we embrace a far-left agenda, they're going to say we're a bunch of crazy socialists. If we embrace a conservative agenda, you know what they're going to do? They're going to say we're a bunch of crazy socialists. So let's just stand up for the right policy, go out there and defend it."

Williamson's style keeps debates interesting

By WILL WEISERT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Bernie Sanders is calling for revolution. Marianne Williamson would rather see a psychic, "moral uprising."

The 67-year-old self-help author and spiritual adviser to Oprah Winfrey now vying for the Democratic presidential nomination doesn't sound or carry herself like a politician. Speaking in wandering streams of consciousness, Williamson has an arresting style and a live to her voice, as well as an accent that sounds vaguely aristocratic — or at least nothing like most people who hail from her native Houston.

But on Tuesday's opening night of

back-to-back debates in Detroit, Williamson showed as long as she's in the race, she'll keep things interesting. And while those winding declarations don't always make sense, they can produce powerful political moments.

Some of the loudest applause came when Williamson became the first of the 10 candidates to evoke racism at length, calling it "part of the dark underbelly of American society."

"If you think any of this wonkiness is going to deal with dark psychic force of the collectivized hatred that this president is bringing up in this country, then I'm afraid that the Democrats are going to see some very dark days," Williamson said, adding that, if the party doesn't "start saying it, then why would those people feel

that 'they're there for us,' and I feel like they won't vote for us, Donald Trump will win."

Trump has put race at the forefront of his reelection campaign, condemning Democratic Rep. Elijah Cummings' majority-black Baltimore district as a "disgusting, rat and rodent infested mess" and suggesting that four Democratic congresswomen of color "go back and help fix the totally broken and crime infested places from which they came," as if they weren't U.S. citizens.

That debate moment began a pattern of sorts, as Williamson continued to chide the other candidates for putting detailed policy over more ambitious pledges to cure the country's larger ills.



PAUL SANCYA/AP

Author Marianne Williamson, the sole nonpolitician in the debates, had a different style than her opponents.



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NATION



JOSE LUIS MAGANA/AP

Maria Chavalan-Sut, an immigrant from Guatemala, has been staying at Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church in Charlottesville, Va., for 10 months. She recently received a letter from immigration authorities advising her of a \$214,132 fine.

Immigrants taking refuge in churches hit with huge fines

By REGINA GARCIA CANO
Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Devotional candles to St. Jude, the Holy Trinity and the Virgin of Guadalupe sit on a bookshelf by the door of a classroom in a United Methodist church. A sewing machine is a few feet away between a bed and a set of wicker furniture. In a corner, an electric skillet warming chicken thighs acts as a kitchen.

It is from those makeshift quarters that Maria Chavalan-Sut, an indigenous woman from Guatemala, has spent 10 months staying off a deportation order to a country that she says has scarred her life with violence, trauma and discrimination. Her fight for asylum could now cost her at least \$214,132.

Chavalan-Sut is among a number of immigrants taking sanctuary at houses of worship who have received letters from immigration authorities threatening them with huge fines under the latest move by the Trump administration. It's unclear how many immigrants have been targeted, but Church World Service, an organization that supports refugees and immigrants, is aware of at least six who have received letters.

"Where am I going to get [money] from? I don't know," said Chavalan-Sut, who worked for a while at a restaurant after arriving in Virginia more than two years ago but hasn't been able to hold a job since seeking sanctuary. "God still has me with my hands to work, and they're the only thing I have. If God thinks that with my hands I can pay that, give me a job."

Chavalan-Sut began living at Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church on Sept. 30, the day she was told to report to a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement office for deportation. She

crossed the border into the U.S. and was detained in November 2016 near Laredo, Texas, after a weeklong journey that started in Guatemala's capital. She said her decision to emigrate and leave her four children behind came after her house was set ablaze.

Chavalan-Sut, 44, doesn't know who set the fire while she, her children and their father were asleep inside. She believes it was linked to a dispute over land rights because she is an indigenous woman, her immigration attorney, Alina Kilpatrick, said. Chavalan-Sut said an area fire official declined to investigate because there were no fatalities.

Immigrants have sought relief from deportation at houses of worship because immigration officials consider them "sensitive locations" in which enforcement action is generally avoided. Forty-five people currently live in sanctuary at churches across the U.S., up from three in 2015, according to Church World Service.

Among them are Honduras native Abbie Arevalo-Herrera and Edith Espinal-Moreno, of Mexico. Arevalo-Herrera took sanctuary at the First Universalist Church in Richmond, Va., in June 2018, while Espinal-Moreno has been living at the Columbus Mennonite Church in Columbus, Ohio, since October 2017.

Like Chavalan-Sut, both women received notices of fines. The three letters were signed June 25. Arevalo-Herrera's fine is for \$295,630, and Espinal-Moreno's was set at \$497,777.

Attorneys, activists and faith leaders have decried the fines. Krish O'Mara Vignarajah, president and CEO of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, said they are a "scare tactic."

"So long as ICE continues to respect its own policy of avoiding sensitive locations like churches, which may not be a given, the

agency will have to continue to resort to psychological games to coerce families out of their legal protections," she said.

Wesley Memorial joined the sanctuary movement after an immigrant rights activist contacted the Rev. Isaac Collins asking for help. The church's 31-year-old pastor said that while he has heard from other pastors who have expressed concern over mixing religion and politics, for him making Wesley Memorial a sanctuary was not a political move; it was a decision based on Christian ethics.

"When you start at, 'Maria is a human being who's in trouble and needs a place of safety,' OK, (that's) very firmly in the realm of ideas in Christianity about hospitality and human rights and loving our neighbors," he said.

Since seeking sanctuary, Chavalan-Sut has been able to talk to her children, now ages 7, 11, 14 and 21, for an hour a day, making sure the youngest ones do their homework. The oldest is now pursuing a degree in civil engineering. She left them all under the care of a family in Guatemala City. She weeps thinking about them.

The devout Catholic participates in Sunday services at Wesley Memorial with the help of a Spanish translator. She prays daily, and tends to a garden of flowers, herbs and vegetables.

At least one volunteer guards the church property around the clock. People take turns buying her groceries. Some are helping her learn English.

Immigrants like Chavalan-Sut who have received fine notices have 30 days to dispute them in writing or request an interview to respond, which would mean risking leaving their sanctuaries. It's unclear whether any of the immigrants have filed paperwork to fight the fines.

ACLU: US must justify separations since 2018 order

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — More than 900 children, including babies and toddlers, were separated from their parents at the border in the year after a judge ordered the practice be sharply curtailed, the American Civil Liberties Union said Tuesday in a legal attack that will invite more scrutiny of the Trump administration's widely criticized tactics.

The ACLU said the administration is separating families over dubious allegations and minor transgressions including traffic offenses. It asked a judge to rule on whether the 911 separations from June 28, 2018, to June 29 of this year were justified.

In June 2018 — days after President Donald Trump retreated amid an international uproar — U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw ordered that the practice of splitting up families at the border be halted except in limited circumstances, like threats to child safety. The judge left individual decisions to the administration's discretion.

Since then, a parent was separated for having damaged property valued at \$200, the ACLU said. A 1-year-old was separated after an official criticized her father for letting her sleep with a wet diaper.

In another case, a 2-year-old Guatemalan girl was separated from her father after authorities examined her for a fever and diaper rash and found she was malnourished and underdeveloped, the ACLU said. The father, who came from an "extraordinarily impoverished community" rife with malnutrition, was accused of neglect.

About 20% of the 911 children separated from in the year after the judge's order were under 5 years old, the ACLU said.

Most parents went weeks with-

out knowing where their children were, and some weren't even clear on why they had been separated. Roughly a third of the 900 children who have been separated from their families since the judge's order have been in the care of Catholic Charities Community Services, which says only three children have been reunited with the parent with whom they traveled.

The organization says 185 children were released to sponsors after weeks or months in government shelters and 33 were returned to their home countries.

The separations occurred during an unprecedented surge of children from Central America that has overwhelmed U.S. authorities, most coming in families but many unaccompanied. Acting Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Mark Morgan told a Senate committee Tuesday that the agency encountered more than 300,000 children since Oct. 1.

More than 2,700 children were separated at the time of Sabraw's 2018 ruling, which forced the government to reunify them with their parents.

The judge later ordered the government to find children who were separated since July 1, 2017, a group that an internal watchdog report estimated numbered in the thousands but has not yet been determined. The administration didn't have adequate tracking systems at the time.

The ACLU, which based its findings on reports that the administration provided, asked Sabraw to order the government to justify separations over the last year and to clarify its criteria for doing so.

The Justice Department didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.



GREGORY BULL/AP

People wait to apply for asylum in the U.S. along the border in Tijuana, Mexico. The American Civil Liberties Union said Tuesday more than 900 children have been separated from their families since a judge ordered last year the practice be sharply curtailed.

NATION

Dems' campaign arm sees exodus of top aides

Departures come amid diversity complaints

BY ALAN FRAM
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A mass departure of top aides shook the House Democrats' campaign arm Tuesday, an exodus that followed complaints from Hispanic and black lawmakers that the organization's staff lacked diversity and that came amid a war of words between the party and President Donald Trump over race.

Rep. Cheri Bustos, D-Ill., chairwoman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, said in a statement late Monday that she had "fallen short" and promised to "work tirelessly to ensure that our staff is truly inclusive." Executive Director Allison Jaslow announced her departure Monday, and a DCCC aide said five other senior aides had also resigned hours later.

The tumult comes as race has become a partisan battlefield, following a series of Twitter attacks



SUSAN WALSH/AP

Rep. Cheri Bustos, D-Ill., chairwoman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, said she'd work to make the staff "truly inclusive" after Hispanic and black members of Congress complained that the staff lacked diversity.

by Trump on House Democrats of color. In his latest blasts, he has disparaged Democratic Rep. Elijah Cummings and his city of Baltimore, which is majority black, as a "disgusting" place where "no human being would want to live."

The shakeup also occurred as both parties are already fundraising for and recruiting candidates for

the elections in 2020, when Democrats will be defending their House majority. The DCCC outspent its counterpart, the National Republican Congressional Committee, in 2018 elections that saw Democrats gain House control after eight years in the minority.

Lawmakers complaining about the DCCC's staff have included

Texas Democratic Reps. Filemon Vela and Vicente Gonzalez and Ohio Rep. Marcia Fudge, a member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Bustos spent Tuesday talking about how to address the problem with leaders of House caucuses representing Hispanics, blacks and other minority groups and with Democratic incumbents expected to face competitive reelection races, the DCCC aide said.

The aide provided supportive statements from several lawmakers, including Rep. Cedric Richmond, D-La., former head of the Congressional Black Caucus. Richmond said he was happy see Bustos "hear the concerns of her colleagues and tackle issues of diversity and inclusion head on."

Hispanic lawmakers became disenchanted with Bustos, 57, replaced top staffers, including many minorities, with aides who were largely white, said an aide to Gonzalez who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to discuss the matter publicly. New committee leaders often name longtime aides to their staffs.

Liberals in and out of Congress were angered when Bustos announced the DCCC would not do business with political consultants who help Democrats challenging incumbent House Democrats. Much of DCCC's money comes from dues paid by House Democrats, and incumbents have argued that an organization they finance should not give some of its lucrative business to consultants who work for challengers trying to unseat them.

Many Democrats were also unhappy when Bustos planned to attend an event in support of fellow Illinois Democratic Rep. Dan Lipinski, an abortion opponent and one of the most conservative House Democrats. Bustos ended up not attending.

Jaslow, an Iraq War veteran, said in a statement that "sometimes selfless service means having the courage to take a bow for the sake of the mission — especially when the stakes are so high."

Bustos has appointed a council of aides to search for a permanent replacement for Jaslow.

Calif. governor signs bill about presidential tax returns

BY KATHLEEN RONAYNE
AND ADAM BEAM
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California's Democratic governor signed a law Tuesday requiring presidential candidates to release their tax returns to appear on the state's primary ballot, a move aimed squarely at Republican President Donald Trump.

Most of the major Democratic candidates for presidential election have already publicly disclosed their personal income tax returns as Trump has refused to do so, breaking with decades of tradition by candidates from both parties.

The Trump campaign said the law signed by Newsom is "unconstitutional." But even if the law withstands a likely legal challenge, Trump could avoid the requirement by choosing not to

compete in California's March 3rd primary.

The Republican National Committee does not require candidates to appear on primary ballots in all 50 states. With no credible GOP challenger at this point, Trump likely won't need California's delegates to win the Republican nomination. The law does not apply to the general election ballot.

Harmee K. Dhillon, one of California's two representatives on the Republican National Committee, called the bill an "illegal voter suppression scheme." Removing Trump from the state's primary ballot would likely depress turnout from GOP voters for down-ticket races and ballot measures, she said.

Newsom, who has repeatedly sparred with Trump over immigration policy and California's troubled high-speed rail project,

said the state's influence as one of the world's largest economies gives it "a special responsibility" to hold candidates to high ethical standards, including disclosing information about their personal finances.

"These are extraordinary times and states have a legal and moral duty to do everything in their power to ensure leaders seeking the highest offices meet minimal standards, and to restore public confidence," Newsom wrote in his signing statement.

While states have authority over how candidates can access their ballots, the U.S. Constitution lays out a limited set of qualifications candidates must meet to run for president, said Rick Hasen, a professor specializing in election law at the University of California-Irvine School of Law. Those qualifications include requiring presidential candidates be over

age 35, born in the U.S. and live at least 14 years in the country.

The U.S. Supreme Court has previously halted state efforts to add ballot access rules for congressional candidates.

The bill's author, Democratic Sen. Mike McGuire, said it would be "inconsistent" with past practice for Trump to forego the primary ballot and "ignore the most popular and vote-rich state in the nation."

California is the first state to enact legislation compelling political candidates to disclose their personal income tax returns.

The law requires candidates to submit tax returns for the most recent five years to California's Secretary of State at least 98 days before the primary. They will then be posted online for the public to view, with some personal information redacted.

The law also applies to candi-

dates for governor. Newsom, who took office in January, released six years of his personal income tax returns prior to California's 2018 gubernatorial primary.

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Trump: China wants trade talks delayed past election

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has accused China of wanting to stall trade negotiations through the 2020 election in hopes of being able to negotiate with a more malleable Democratic president. Yet if re-elected, Trump threatened to get "much tougher" with Beijing.

"China would love to wait and just hope," Trump asserted to reporters Tuesday.

"They would just love if I got defeated so they could deal with somebody like Elizabeth Warren or Sleepy Joe Biden. ... They'll pray that Trump loses. And then they'll make a deal with a stiff, somebody that doesn't know what they're doing like Obama and Biden, like

all the presidents before."

Trump made his comments just as his trade representative, Robert Lighthizer, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and their Chinese counterparts began a 12th round of trade talks in Shanghai.

The world's two biggest economies are locked in a trade war over U.S. allegations that Beijing uses predatory tactics — including stealing trade secrets and forcing foreign companies to hand over technology — in a drive to overtake American technological dominance.

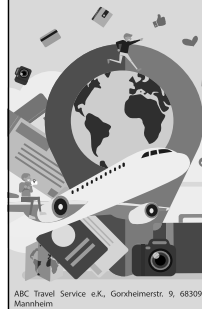
Trump has imposed tariffs on \$250 billion worth of Chinese imports, and China has counterpunched by taxing \$110 billion in U.S.

products.

Negotiators in Shanghai are also expected to discuss the fate of the Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei. The United States in May put Huawei, which U.S. officials see as a national security threat, on a blacklist barring it from receiving U.S. components. Trump has said that Huawei could be a bargaining chip in the trade dispute.

Trump insisted that the trade war is hurting China more than the United States. In the April-June quarter, China's economy grew at the slowest pace in at least 26 years.

"They've had a terrible year because of the tariffs," Trump said.



NATION

Dig finds not-so-ancient artifacts in Boston

Water table thwarts Chinatown project that unearthed toy dinosaur, New Edition cassette

By PHILIP MARCELO
Associated Press

BOSTON — An archaeological dig in Boston's historic Chinatown has been cut short after it turned up a 1980s music cassette, a toy dinosaur and other bric-a-brac.

The city's Archaeology Program tweeted Tuesday that it was wrapping up its three-week excavation because researchers reached the water table and it was unsafe to dig further.

The excavation of a vacant lot near the neighborhood's distinctive gateway had been expected to last until early autumn.

In recent days, researchers have been humorously tweeting some of their "finds," including a cassette by Boston R&B group New Edition, a toy dinosaur, linoleum flooring and other items from the 1970s and 1980s.

They've also showcased small porcelain pieces, some of which likely came from nearby Chinese restaurants, as they dug methodically through layers of brick, concrete and other material.

Researchers had hoped to turn up artifacts shedding new light

on Boston's immigrants — not only those from China but also Syria, Ireland and England who sought new lives in Chinatown from 1840 to 1980.

City archaeologist Joe Bagley said the dig was the first in Chinatown, and his team will "now have a better understanding of how complex and deeply buried backyards may be" there.

"We were tantalizingly close to the older deposits," Bagley said. "It was frustrating to see the water on the site after weeks of work trying to get down to deeper/older deposits."

The neighborhood, at the edge of the city's Theater District, drew thousands of newcomers attracted by cheap housing and plentiful warehouse jobs in the adjacent Leather District starting in the late 1800s.

"Boston is a city of immigrants, and this is an important piece of Boston's history," Mayor Marty Walsh said when the dig, the city's first in Chinatown, commenced.

The city Archaeology Program has excavated dozens of sites over the years.

Two years ago, researchers un-



ELISE AMENDOLA/AP

Sarah Kekdik, archaeology lab manager for Boston, sorts samples at an excavation in Chinatown. The dig has been cut short after reaching the water table.

earthed an outhouse next door to the home of famed colonial leader Paul Revere in the city's North End. They recovered fragments of pottery, bottles and a tobacco pipe. In 2016, they dug at the boyhood home of Malcolm X in the

city's Roxbury neighborhood.

Researchers turned up artifacts from the 1940s to 1960s likely belonging to the slain civil rights activist's family, but also Native American stone tool pieces dating to the time before Euro-

peans came to Boston.

In 2015, they surveyed the courtyard at the old Boston City Hall building downtown and found remnants of the original Boston Latin, the nation's first public school.

Dillinger's body to be exhumed in Indianapolis

By RICK CALLAHAN
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The body of notorious 1930s gangster John Dillinger is expected to be exhumed in September from a concrete-encased grave at an Indianapolis cemetery more than 85 years after he was killed by FBI agents outside a Chicago theater.

The upcoming exhumation could put to rest conspiracy theories suggesting that the violent criminal some people considered a folk hero during the height of the Great Depression isn't even buried in his marked grave.

The Indiana State Department of Health approved a permit July 3 sought by Dillinger's nephew, Michael C. Thompson, to have the body exhumed from Crown Hill Cemetery and reinterred there.

The permit doesn't give a reason for the request, and Thompson couldn't immediately be reached for comment. However, Dan Silberman, of A&E Networks, said the exhumation will be covered as part of a documentary on Dillinger for The History Channel.

Indiana health department spokeswoman Jeni O'Malley said that based on the permit, the age's expects Dillinger's body will be exhumed and reinterred on Sept. 16 — the date listed on the document.

But digging up Dillinger's grave might prove a difficult task because days after his son's funeral, Dillinger's father had the casket reburied under a protective cap of concrete and scrap iron topped by four



CHARLIE NYE, THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR/AP

Indiana Reformatory booking shots of John Dillinger showing the notorious gangster as a 21-year-old. The body of the 1930s gangster is set to be exhumed on Sept. 16 in Indianapolis.

reinforced-concrete slabs, said Susan Sutton, a historian with the Indiana Historical Society.

"I think they're going to have a hard time getting through that," Sutton said. The reason for the concrete-encased grave was to thwart would-be vandals, she said, citing "Crown Hill: History, Spirit, and Sanctuary" a 2013 book the historical society published about the cemetery's history.

"The main fear was that someone would come in and dig up the grave and either desecrate the corpse or steal it," Sutton said. "The Dillingers had actually been offered money to 'lend out' his body for exhibits, so they were concerned."

She added that she hopes the exhumation ends lingering speculation that Dillinger isn't even buried beneath all that concrete and confirms his sister's identification of her brother's body.

The FBI says Dillinger's gang killed 10 people as they pulled off a bloody string of bank robberies across the Midwest.

Frog population hopping in central Vermont region

By LISA RATHKE
Associated Press

SALISBURY, Vt. — A wet spring has caused one frog population to explode in an area of Vermont where throngs of the amphibians have been hopping through fields and lawns, darting across roads and getting flattened by cars and tractors.

University of Vermont herpetology lecturer James Andrews estimates that the population of the northern leopard frog has leaped a hundredfold in a region near the Otter Creek in Addison County.

"People who have been here, you know, 30 years or more say they have never seen this many frogs," said Andrews, who is also coordinator of The Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas and lives in the town of Salisbury, where a mass of frogs has emerged. "And it's a result, I think, of not only the perfect storm of conditions this year but also as a result of climate change, the amount of extra moisture that we're getting in this area in general."

Rainfall can have big impacts on amphibian populations, said John Kanter, a senior wildlife biologist at the National Wildlife Federation. The region of Salisbury and some surrounding towns near the Otter Creek had a wet spring, and some fields held water into July.

The northern leopard frog lays its eggs in the grassy flood plains of the creek; normally many of those eggs would have dehydrated as fields dried out, but that didn't happen this year. Then a warm spell sped up the development of the young tadpoles, which transformed into frogs just

as the fields were drying out, according to Andrews.

"We had this wave of hundreds of thousands of frogs that successfully metamorphosed," Andrews said. "And over the last week, week and a half, they have moved out a mile, mile and a half maybe, two miles in that direction. You can see the dead frog remains on the road."

"People who have been here, you know, 30 years or more say they have never seen this many frogs."

James Andrews
University of Vermont lecturer

Andrews and others counted 400,000 dead frogs on a half-mile stretch of road.

The dried-up carnage is still visible and odorous along the road while dark specks in the pavement show where many other frogs were crushed. Residents have reported not wanting to mow lawns, and hundreds of small frogs in swimming pools, Andrews said.

The small, young, bright green frogs with brown spots aren't hard to spot. They leap up in fields like popcorn but also are swift and hard to catch. But the population has started to disperse. And no doubt they will be a bounty for wildlife.

"This should be an advantage for fish, for herons, for ducks, for hawks, for owls, snakes, raccoons, skunks, opossum," said Andrews. "This should just be a buffet essentially for lots of wildlife."

NATION



KEN BOHN, SAN DIEGO ZOO/AP

A day-old southern white rhino calf, born through artificial insemination, stands beside its mother, Victoria, at the Nikita Kahn Rhino Rescue Center at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park on Monday.

Rhino birth through artificial insemination first in North America

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A conservation organization in San Diego says it has achieved the first successful artificial insemination birth of a southern white rhino in North America, an important step in saving another rhino species from extinction.

San Diego Zoo Global announced that mother Victoria gave birth Sunday to a healthy southern white rhino male calf at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park after 30 minutes of labor.

"All of us at San Diego Zoo Global are elated with the arrival of this special rhino calf," said Barbara Durrant, director of reproductive science at San Diego Zoo Global.

Victoria was artificially inseminated with frozen semen from southern white rhino Maoto in March 2018 following hormone-induced ovulation. Victoria carried her calf for over a year—493 days. Mother and calf will remain off exhibit to the public to allow them time to bond for now.

The calf will eventually be introduced to the other five female rhinos at the Nikita Kahn Rhino

Rescue Center — including Amani, another rhino pregnant through artificial insemination due to give birth in September or October.

"Not only are we thankful for a healthy calf, but this birth is significant, as it also represents a critical step in our effort to save the northern white rhino from the brink of extinction," Durrant said.

The northern white rhino is a distant subspecies of the southern white rhino. Only two northern white rhinos currently remain on Earth—both female.

Scientists say the southern white rhinos will be serving as surrogates for northern white rhino embryos.

The reproductive system of rhinos is very complex, but researchers are optimistic that a northern white rhino calf could be born from these processes within 10 to 20 years.

The last male northern white rhino, named Sudan, died in March 2018. Scientists had preserved frozen sperm samples from several males they are hoping to use to revive the species.

Wealthy use loophole to get aid meant for needy students

By COLLIN BINKLEY
Associated Press

The U.S. Education Department is being urged to close a loophole that has allowed some wealthy families to get federal, state and university funding that's meant to help needy students.

Federal authorities were notified last year that some parents in Illinois were transferring custody of their children to friends or relatives to make it appear they came from poorer backgrounds. In doing so, they became eligible for scholarships and federal grants that are typically reserved for low-income students.

Disclosure of the practice comes at a time of intense debate over the fairness of college admissions. Earlier this year, federal authorities uncovered a sweeping scheme in which they said wealthy parents paid bribes to get their children into elite universities across the nation.

The latest case was uncovered at the University of Illinois after guidance counselors at nearby high schools caught wind of the scheme and notified the school's admissions office. University officials soon noticed a pattern of students coming from certain Chicago suburbs with recent guardianship transfers and similar language in their applications. The school has identified 14 cases over the last year.

Andy Borst, director of undergraduate admissions, said that while the strategy appears to be legal, it's ethically questionable. By tapping into funding for needy students, he said, wealthy families deprive students who legitimately need help. Some of the families were able to obtain state grants that are first-come, first-served, while thousands of other students were turned away.

"Financial aid is not infinite," he said. "There are students who are eligible for need-based aid who are not receiving their awards because the state runs out."

The Education Department's inspector general said it's aware of the issue and is urging the agency to add new language to its rules to close the loophole. Under the proposed update, changes of guardianship would not be recognized "if a student enters into a legal guardianship but continues to receive medical and financial support from their parents."

A statement from the department said it's weighing how to respond.

"Those who break the rules should be held accountable, and the department is committed to assessing what changes can be made—either independently or in concert with Congress—to protect taxpayers from those who seek to game the sys-

tem for their own financial gain," according to the statement.

The scheme, which was first reported Monday by Pro Publica and The Wall Street Journal, has been traced to clusters of parents in Chicago suburbs. It's unclear how widespread the scheme reaches, but Pro Publica reported that students involved have

been accepted to schools including the University of Missouri, the University of Wisconsin and Indiana University. Those schools said they're looking into the issue.

A statement from the University of Wisconsin said it will review all cases of legal guardianship to verify "genuine financial need."

Indiana University said it will contact any involved students and request documentation to verify financial aid eligibility. The University of Missouri said it has a "very small number" of suspected cases but will pull institutional aid from any students who misrepresented their financial status.

“There are students who are eligible for need-based aid who are not receiving their awards because the state runs out.”

Andy Borst
University of Illinois

News of the scheme is likely to trigger a wave of similar investigations at colleges across the country as officials try to determine the scope.

"I can guarantee that they are going to start doing some digging on their own campuses to see if they see any patterns," said Jill Desjean, a policy analyst at the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

Some parents told Pro Publica and The Journal that they transferred custody of their children on the advice of a college consulting firm called Destination College, based in Lincolnshire, Ill. The company's website promises to help parents pay for college "in the most efficient and inexpensive way." The firm did not respond to a request seeking comment.

After having their custody transferred, students can claim they are independent of their families and apply for financial aid using their own earnings rather than their families'.

That would typically qualify them for federal Pell Grants, which are capped at about \$6,000 a year, and an Illinois state program that provides about \$5,000 a year.

It could also make them eligible for university scholarships that range as high as the full cost of tuition.

Slaughter of escaped calf behind store sparks outrage

Associated Press

BLOOMFIELD, Conn. — The slaughter in a Home Depot parking lot of a calf that escaped a butcher shop and led employees on a chase has sparked outrage by animal lovers and elicited racist messages online.

The calf broke out of the Saba Live Poultry store in Bloomfield on July 13 and ran behind the store across the street.

A contractor who was doing construction work on the butcher shop even tried to shoot the animal with a bow and arrow, to no avail.

Dashboard camera footage from a Bloomfield police officer who briefly followed the animal by car shows the animal eluding



BLOOMFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT/AP

A calf that escaped a nearby butcher shop runs through a Home Depot parking lot in Bloomfield, Conn., on July 13.

several people who tried to corral it.

When employees of the butcherery finally did wrestle the calf the

ground, Badr Mused, who works in the shop, cut its throat.

Bilal Musid, the manager of the halal butcher shop, apologized for the killing but said his employees feared the animal would cause serious injury to someone if not stopped.

"It was kind of even attacking employees," he said, explaining why his colleague went to such extremes to end the chase.

The Bloomfield Police Department confirmed that animals have escaped the store before, but a slaughter like this has never happened before.

After the calf is killed, a police officer can be heard on audio captured by his body camera telling a man from the shop who is holding a knife that there is a prob-

lem, noting that, for instance, a bystander saw it. The man seems at a loss and replies that the bystander is frequently in the butcherer shop.

"OK, but we're not in your store right now. We're in the back of Home Depot," the officer replies. Animal activists are decrying the public slaughter.

That the butcher shop was halal — which means it slaughters animals using knives in accordance with Islamic dietary laws — has led to a stream of racist comments posted on webpages associated with the store. Police have cited Mused for public disturbance, and the state Department of Agriculture briefly shut the butcher shop down.

Musid said he understands the

public reaction to the killing.

"I understand their anger, but I didn't want this to happen either," he said, adding the animal could have caused an accident on the road or worse.

He bemoaned that some are expressing that anger by making anti-Muslim remarks. The shop's Facebook page has been temporarily disabled and reviews on its Yelp page suspended because of the media attention and the ensuing hateful comments.

Capt. Stephen Hajdasz, a public information officer with the police department, said police are considering an animal cruelty charge for Mused and a disorderly conduct charge for the contractor who tried to stop the animal with an arrow.

NATION

US to set up plan allowing access to Canadian meds

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration said Wednesday it will set up a system allowing Americans to legally and safely import lower-cost prescription drugs from Canada for the first time, reversing years of opposition from federal health authorities amid a public outcry over high prices for life-sustaining medications.

The move is a step toward fulfilling a 2016 campaign promise by President Donald Trump, and it weakens an import ban that stood as a symbol of the political clout of the pharmaceutical industry. It's unclear how soon consumers will see benefits, as the plan has to go through time-consuming regulatory approval and later could face court challenges from drugmakers.

It comes as the industry is facing a crescendo of consumer complaints over costs, as well as legislation from both parties in Congress to rein in costs, along with a sheaf of proposals from the Democratic presidential contenders. Ahead of the 2020 election, Trump is feeling pressure to deliver on years of rhetoric about the pharmaceutical industry.

Making the announcement Wednesday, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar said the administration's decision recognizes that prescription drug manufacturing and distribution is now international.

"The landscape and the opportunities for safe linkage between drug supply chains has changed," Azar said. "That is part of why, for the first time in U.S. history, we are open to importation. We want to see proposals from states, distributors, and pharma-

'We want to see proposals from states, distributors, and pharmacies that can help accomplish our shared goal of safe prescription drugs at lower prices.'

Alex Azar
health and human services secretary

cies that can help accomplish our shared goal of safe prescription drugs at lower prices."

Most patients take affordable generic drugs to manage conditions such as high blood pressure or elevated blood sugars. But polls show concern about the prices of breakthrough medications for intractable illnesses like cancer or hepatitis C infection, whose annual costs can run to \$100,000 or much more. And long-available drugs like insulin have seen serial price increases that forced some people with diabetes to ration their own doses.

Azar, a former drug industry executive, said U.S. patients will be able to import medications safely and effectively, with oversight from the Food and Drug Administration.

One prong of the administration's proposal would allow states, wholesalers and pharmacists to get FDA approval to import certain medications that are also available here. Another part would allow drugmakers to seek approval for re-importation of their own drugs. This second provision would cover cutting-edge biologic drugs as well as mainstays like insulin.

It's unclear how soon consumers will see results. Azar spoke of a regulatory process lasting "weeks and months" and he also

called on Congress to pass legislation that would lend its muscle to the effort, even short-circuit attempts to overturn the changes in court.

"The FDA has the resources to do this," said acting FDA Commissioner Ned Sharpless. "The agency is interested in considering any reasonable proposal that maintains the bedrock of safety and efficacy for the American consumer."

The importation idea has backers across the political spectrum. Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, chairman of the panel that oversees Medicare, said on Twitter that importation would lower prescription drug costs. He and Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Amy Klobuchar, of Minnesota, have a bill to facilitate importation. During Tuesday night's Democratic presidential debate, many candidates talked about the need to lower prescription drug costs.

Looking to his reelection campaign, Trump has made lowering prescription drug prices one of his top goals.

Drug prices are lower in other economically advanced countries because governments take a leading role in setting prices. But in the U.S., Medicare is not permitted to negotiate with drug companies.

manipulation.

Dowless had worked for Republican congressional hopeful Mark Harris, among other candidates, though Harris isn't mentioned in the new indictment. Harris has not been charged.

Harris appeared to have a slim lead over Democrat Dan McCreedy in the 2018 general election for the 9th District, but the state elections board found that the election had been tainted and ordered a new contest. Harris chose not to run in the new race.

The repeat general election will be held this fall, with McCreedy facing Republican Dan Bishop in the mostly rural district that includes part of Charlotte and extends eastward across several counties.

Dowless' defense attorney, Cynthia Singletary, didn't immediately return a message seeking comment Tuesday.



NOAH BERGER/AP

Robbie Ramirez, 10, holds onto his father, Robert Ramirez, during a vigil Monday in Gilroy, Calif., for victims of the Sunday evening shooting that left three people dead at the Gilroy Garlic Festival.

Calif. festival killer's motive still a mystery

By KATHLEEN RONAYNE
Associated Press

GILROY, Calif. — The 19-year-old gunman who opened fire at a Northern California food festival was "kind of a loner" and much of his life was shrouded in mystery, the FBI said Tuesday as investigators searched for a motive.

Police believe Santino William Legan fired randomly Sunday, killing three people, after cutting through a fence to get into the Gilroy Garlic Festival. Officers patrolling the popular event responded within a minute and killed him.

Legan attended high school in Gilroy in his senior year and was recently living in Nevada, where he purchased two guns — the AK-47-style semi-automatic rifle he used in the attack and a shotgun that was found in his car near the festival, authorities said.

A bag of ammunition was found in a creek near the fence, police said.

"We understand him to be kind of a loner," said Craig Fair, deputy special agent in charge of the FBI's San Francisco Division. "People who act alone are exceptionally dangerous because they ... may not communicate their plans, intentions, mindset — they may not impart that on other people."

Legan was living in an apartment in Walker Lake, a remote northern Nevada community, and had not had any run-ins with the law, officials said.

"He appears to have moved into Mineral County this spring and maintained a low profile," Sheriff Randy Adams said in a statement.

Officials searched the apartment, seizing empty shotgun and rifle boxes, a gas mask, empty ammunition boxes, electronic devices, pamphlets on guns and a sack full of ammunition casings, prosecutors said.

The FBI said they were looking through Legan's social media, emails and phone to find out who he was talking to and what he was expressing and thinking. Authorities don't believe he was

targeting anyone based on any specific characteristics like race, but they're still trying to determine his ideology, Fair said.

On the day of the attack, Legan urged his Instagram followers to read a 19th-century book popular with white supremacists on extremist websites. He also complained about overcrowding towns and paving open space to make room for "hordes" of Latinos and Silicon Valley whites.

Legan posted a photo from the festival minutes before opening fire, saying, "Come get wasted on overpriced" items. His since-deleted Instagram account said he was Italian and Iranian.

While some killers in recent mass shootings have taken to posting writing or even broadcasting their attacks, there are cases where shooters leave very little public footprint and no motive is uncovered.

That includes the gunman who killed 58 people at an outdoor music festival in Las Vegas in 2017. No clear motive was found for why Stephen Paddock shot down on the crowd from the balcony of his hotel room, though the FBI said he sought notoriety.

People had to pass through metal detectors and have their bags searched at the long-running festival that draws more than 100,000 people with music, food booths and cooking classes to the city roughly 80 miles south-east of San Francisco.

Police, paramedics and firefighters were stationed throughout the event, along with FBI agents who, in a common practice, had been asked to keep an eye on the event, authorities said.

Legan bypassed those security measures by cutting through the fence. He killed 6-year-old Stephen Romero and 13-year-old Keyla Salazar of San Jose, along with Trevor Irby, 25, of Romulus, N.Y., who was at the event with his girlfriend. She wasn't hurt.

A dozen other people were injured. At least seven victims remained hospitalized Tuesday, the San Francisco Chronicle reported.

NC ballot fraud probe yields new charges

By JONATHAN DREW
Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — A ballot fraud investigation produced new felony charges Tuesday against the political operative at the center of a disputed North Carolina congressional election that's being rerun.

Wake County District Attorney Lorrin Freeman said in a news release that Leslie McCrae Dowless was indicted on new charges related to the 2018 general election including perjury, obstruction of justice and absentee ballot possession. He and others were charged earlier this year with counts related to the 2016 general election and 2018 primary.

Evidence that Dowless and others had improperly collected ballots prompted the state elections board, which conducted its own inquiry earlier this year, to order

a new election for the 9th Congressional District seat.

Echoing and expanding on previous allegations, the new indictment accuses Dowless of directing people to collect incomplete absentee ballots and make it appear that the voter had finished them. Several others also are facing new charges.

The indictment states that Dowless "instructed individuals to sign certifications indicating they had witnessed the voter vote and properly executed the absentee ballot when they had not, and mailed or instructed others to mail the absentee ballot in such a manner to conceal the fact that the voter had not personally mailed it himself."

It is generally against the law in North Carolina for anyone other than the voter or a close relative to handle a mail-in ballot, a measure aimed at guarding against

VETERANS

On a mission

Former combat photographer aims to take portraits of over 7,500 veterans for project

By DOUG MACCASH

NOLA Media Group, New Orleans

By Veterans Day, former combat photographer Stacy Pearsall will have traveled to all 50 states, snapping stark black-and-white portraits of more than 7,500 military veterans.

Despite the care she takes composing each shot, correcting the lighting and cajoling her subjects to engage with the camera, the photos aren't the main thing. The main thing, for her, is the chance to connect with fellow veterans.

According to the retired Air Force staff sergeant, her Veterans Portrait Project began as a sort of self-prescribed therapy as she recovered from a neck injury and head trauma that resulted from a roadside bomb blast in Iraq in 2007. She said it remains a balm for the physical and emotional aftermath of her experience.

Earlier this month, Pearsall set up her mobile photo studio in the enormous Boeing Center atrium at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans. Antique bombers and fighter planes hung from the high ceiling above her as former soldiers, sailors and Marines took turns in front of her lens.

Aside from the special baseball caps and T-shirts that commemorated their units and theaters of operation, the veterans looked just like anyone else. Their experiences and sacrifices were invisible.

But as Pearsall posed them and asked them questions, the significance of their service shone through.

"Combat veterans tend to withhold a lot from others," she said. "Their experiences have injured them, and they don't want to project that injury on others."

Pearsall suspects that if she weren't a combat veteran herself, some of the vets might be more reluctant to be photographed or to share their stories. And it didn't hurt that her service dog Charlie lay nonchalantly on the photo set, exuding an attentive but utterly relaxed vibe.

It's difficult to describe the "sights, sounds, smells, memories and feelings of unworthiness" that some combat veterans carry with them, Pearsall said. They wonder, "Why do you want to know my story?"

She said that their experiences validate her emotions, and she hopes her photography validates theirs. She said her exchanges with the vets are "invaluable" and her photos are the "byproduct."

Vietnam War veteran Francisco Lopez posed seated on a stool, his hands atop his cane. He smiled broadly as he gazed through his glasses.

Lopez, 72, said he was born in Honduras but immigrated to the U.S. in 1961. By 1968, he was an Army combat medic giving first aid to fellow soldiers during the intense fighting of the Tet Offensive. He said he earned a Purple Heart for a shrapnel wound and a Bronze Star for heroism.

As Pearsall, who herself received the Bronze Star and Air Force Commendation Medal with Valor, arranged to photograph Lopez, she asked if he knew how many wounded men he may have helped.

There were too many to remember, he said.

Lopez told Pearsall that he thought he would be appalled by blood, but when the fighting began he quickly became enured to it.

"I was in combat for 10 months," he said in an interview after the photo shoot. "In a while, all your emotions are gone. You don't complain. Your friends die and you don't feel anything. Back in civilian life, those emotions are still pretty low."

Lopez, who lives in Uptown, said that the



PHOTOS ABOVE AND BELOW LEFT BY DOUG MACCASH/The Times-Picayune, The New Orleans Advocate

Above: Former combat photographer Stacy Pearsall prepares to photograph veteran Doug Fredd as part of her Veterans Portrait Project. Below left: Pearsall photographs Bronze Star recipient Francisco Lopez.



fact Pearsall had combat experience really didn't matter to him. He would have happily posed for a commemorative portrait anyway. But there are unspoken bonds between those who have been under fire, he

said.

He and an old friend who also served in the Vietnam War rarely mention their combat experiences, but they always know that deep down they have something important



Stacy Pearsall

A photo of veteran Francisco Lopez for the Veterans Portrait Project.

in common, Lopez said.

Lopez plans to present Pearsall's portrait of him to his granddaughter.

Asked how it felt to be ceremoniously photographed as part of Pearsall's project, he said it made him feel a bit "grandiose." But it also affirmed his pride.

The day after her New Orleans photo shoot, Pearsall traveled to Arkansas to engage in more exchanges with veterans.

"People think veterans are statuesque, unbreakable and impenetrable," she said over the phone as she waited for her plane to depart. "I want people to realize that in every uniform is a human being with a heart and a soul, people they love, history and baggage. I want every veteran to know they're thanked."

"I want people to realize that in every uniform is a human being with a heart and a soul, people they love, history and baggage. I want every veteran to know they're thanked."

Stacy Pearsall
Veterans Portrait Project

WORLD

UN: Violence in Syria could spark humanitarian disaster

By EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The U.N. humanitarian chief urged the Security Council on Tuesday to take action to end the “bloody onslaught” in Syria’s last opposition-held stronghold, warning that continued violence could create the worst humanitarian disaster of the 21st century.

An exasperated Mark Lowcock told council members they have ignored previous pleas to stop the bombing and shelling in Idlib province by Syrian and Russian warplanes and “do nothing for 90 days as the carnage continues in front of your eyes.”

“Are you again going to shrug your shoulders ... or are you going to listen to the children of Idlib, and do something about it?” he asked.

The Security Council has been deeply divided over the Syrian conflict since it began in 2011,

with Russia backing the government and Western nations supporting the opposition. That has kept the U.N.’s most powerful body from taking any significant action.

British U.N. Ambassador Karen Pierce told the council that responsibility for its failure to act lies with Russia, Syria and Iran.

What’s happening in Idlib “makes a mockery” of the responsibility of the five permanent veto-wielding council members — Russia, China, the United States, Britain and France — to ensure international peace and security, she said.

Idlib was supposed to be a de-escalation zone under an agreement reached between Russia and Turkey, which backs the opposition. That deal has all but collapsed since the government launched an offensive on April 30, saying it wanted to get rid of “terrorists” that took refuge there.

Britain, France, the United States and other council nations have been especially angered at the increasing number of attacks on health facilities and schools and the growing number of civilian casualties in Idlib.

A petition from 10 Security Council members delivered to Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday asks the U.N. chief about the possibility of launching an investigation into attacks on medical facilities and the so-called “de-confliction mechanism” under which the locations and coordinates of health facilities are reported to the warring parties.

The petition was signed by Britain, France, the United States, Kuwait, Peru, Poland, Belgium, Dominican Republic, Germany and Indonesia. Russia, China, South Africa, Ivory Coast and Equatorial Guinea did not sign it.

Humanitarian chief Lowcock



SYRIAN CIVIL DEFENSE WHITE HELMETS/AP

Syrian White Helmet civil defense workers search for victims in the rubble of a building hit by airstrikes in Idlib province, Syria, last week. The U.N. humanitarian chief said the continued onslaught in Syria could trigger a humanitarian disaster.

said it was an “extremely important question” whether information provided through the deconfliction system was being used to protect civilian facilities or target them.

He said parties to the conflict have been notified of six attacks in northwest Syria this year, and that “in the current environment de-confliction is not proving ef-

fective in helping to protect those who utilize the system.”

Lowcock said his team will meet with humanitarian organizations “to update them on the current situation and determine again whether we should continue to provide information to the parties on new sites or humanitarian movements.”

More S. Korean women saying no to marriage, motherhood

By JIHYE LEE

Bloomberg

Baek Ha-na works in accounting during the week. On weekends, she’s a YouTube star in South Korea, promoting the “live-alone life.”

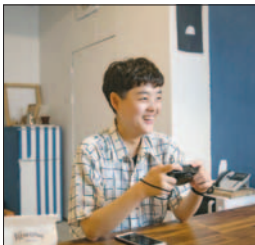
Baek, whose YouTube channel in English is called “Solo-darity,” objects to being called a “mi-hon” — someone who is not yet married.

She’s part of a growing and determined group of Korean women rejecting marriage and motherhood.

Such decisions are intensifying demographic and economic challenges for the government as the country faces one of the world’s lowest birth rates and a shortfall in pension funding that is getting harder to close with fewer workers joining the labor force.

“Society made me feel like a failure for being in my 30’s and not yet a wife or a mother,” Baek said. “Instead of belonging to someone, I now have a more ambitious future for myself.”

Baek and her YouTube co-host maintain



JEAN CHUNG/BLOOMBERG

Baek Ha-na, a host of a feminist YouTube segment in Seoul, South Korea, is part of a growing group of Korean women who are rejecting marriage.

that the government’s current approach infuriates many women. They argue that the latest efforts to boost birthrates are “abu-

sive” and “frustrating” because they fail to address the lack of legal avenues to ensure career development for mothers or alleviate financial burdens in raising children.

When it comes to the birth rate, South Korea has ranked at the bottom of OECD countries in the Asia-Pacific region since 2016, with that rate going even lower this year.

According to data compiled by the World Bank, South Korea and Puerto Rico tied for the lowest overall rates as of 2017 — seven children per 1,000 people, followed by Japan and Hong Kong.

Data from South Korea’s national statistics agency in April showed the number of births dropped even further as of February, a 7% decline from a year earlier. In 2019, the number of those dying is expected to outpace the number of those being born, the report said.

A separate report from the agency shows fewer women believe marriage is a must. In 2010, 64.7% of women in South Korea answered that marriage is required for women, while 48.1% gave the same response in 2018.

South Korea’s government is reacting by offering incentives to encourage marriage and especially parenthood.

In Sejong, a city designated to be South Korea’s new administrative capital, about 30 single men and women attended their latest event in June. The office’s goal was to encourage working single men and women to take part in “recreational activities and table talks.”

Baek, the YouTube star, said government policies “to force a woman into marriage and childbearing represent a deeply ingrained perception of a woman in our society as an object, not an individual.”

She even refuses to be called “mi-hon,” or “not yet married,” a common Korean term for a single woman. Baek instead prefers “bi-hon,” which means “to not marry, to not have children.”

The reaction to what the women call South Korea’s government’s “tone-deaf” policies have prompted a hashtag on Twitter as well, with women sharing their stories about living a life not focused on marriage and having babies.

China claims detainees have been reintegrated into society

By YANAN WANG

Associated Press

BEIJING — Officials from China’s northwestern Xinjiang region said Tuesday that most of the people detained at the area’s contentious reeducation centers have been moved out of the facilities and have signed “work contracts” with local companies, but those assertions have been challenged by accounts from Uighurs and Kazakhs who say their relatives are still missing.

The United States, human

rights groups and independent analysts estimate that about 1 million Muslims have been arbitrarily detained in Xinjiang’s heavily guarded internment camps, which the Chinese government calls vocational training centers.

The Xinjiang region is home to an estimated 12 million Uighurs, Kazakhs and other predominantly Muslim ethnic minorities who have long reported persecution at the hands of the Han Chinese, the country’s ethnic majority. In recent years, Xinjiang has been

blanketed with high-tech surveillance cameras and police checkpoints that single out Uighurs for identification checks.

Former detainees and their family members have said in interviews with The Associated Press that the reeducation centers resembled prisons where they were forced to renounce their faith and swear loyalty to China’s ruling Communist Party. They said they were subject to repeated political indoctrination and often did not understand why they were being held in the

facilities.

Traveling abroad, speaking to relatives in other countries and growing a long beard are all acts that might land someone in detention, according to Uighurs and Kazakhs who have fled the region.

Shohrat Zakir, Xinjiang’s Uighur governor, declined at a news briefing to give a figure for those he described as “students” inside the centers. He defended the facilities as an effective and “pioneering” approach to counterterrorism.

“Most of the graduates from the vocational training centers have been reintegrated into society,” Zakir said. “More than 90% of the graduates have found satisfactory jobs with good incomes.”

Uighurs and Kazakhs outside China, however, continue to appeal to foreign governments to help them locate their relatives still inside Xinjiang. Many say they have not been able to contact their loved ones for years, and they fear the worst.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Woman who urinated on potatoes turns self in

PA WEST MIFFLIN — Authorities said a woman suspected of urinating on potatoes at a Walmart in western Pennsylvania has turned herself in.

West Mifflin police said Grace Brown, 20, is facing multiple charges including criminal mischief, open lewdness and public drunkenness.

Brown turned herself in Tuesday after learning that authorities were looking for her.

A Walmart representative said an employee saw what Brown was doing. The company “immediately disposed of the affected products and sanitized the area.”

Roadkill database could help wayward critters

ME AUGUSTA — Maine conservationists are hopeful a new database about roadkill will protect the state's critters from becoming statistics.

The Kennebec Journal reported Maine Audubon's online database will let residents who see roadkill report the sighting. That will allow the group to identify roadkill “hot spots” that are especially dangerous for animals.

Maine Audubon is working on the effort with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife and University of California, Davis.

Officer chases bobcat that jumped on roof

NH STRATHAM — A New Hampshire police officer said the kitten he was trying to pick up in a parking lot turned out to be a bobcat, which jumped onto the roof of a fast-food restaurant.

Stratham Officer Matt Callahan told Seacoastonline.com he was on patrol when he saw the “kitten” run under a car. It eventually climbed a tree near the restaurant.

Once Callahan realized he was dealing with a young bobcat, he called state Fish and Game officers. He also alerted customers in case the bobcat decided to come down, but it climbed onto the roof and took a cat nap.

Callahan said he and the conservation officer climbed the roof and put the bobcat in a crate. The bobcat was released at a wildlife refuge.

Police say man lost an eye in paintball attack

VA RICHMOND — Police in Virginia said a man lost an eye to a paintball attack and a second man suffered minor injuries in another such attack.

News outlets reported Richmond police said a man was shot in the face, chest and back with a paintball gun on July 22. He was taken to a hospital with injuries that weren't life-threatening.

Police said in a news release that officers responded to a report of another paintball gun attack hours later on the same street. This time, a man had been shot in



5060063/AP

Smooth sailing

Dennis Slaton, right, of Gainesville, Ga., sails around a mark with crew members Doug Thorne, left, and Winn Story in a Spinnaker Fleet race at the Catalina 22 Nationals sailing event Monday on Lake Hefner in Oklahoma City. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Catalina 22.

the face, chest and right eye.

Police charged Kenontray L. Lamberts, 19, with malicious wounding in the first assault and said they're investigating the other.

Woman found dead 38 years ago identified

OH IRONTON — Investigators said they used complex forensic techniques to figure out the identity of a woman found dead in an Ohio well nearly four decades ago.

Lawrence County, Ohio, officials and experts from the nonprofit DNA Doe Project announced the real name of the notorious “Belle in the Well” victim was Louise Virginia Flesher, of West Virginia.

Authorities said the mystery began in 1981 when a couple of teenagers found the decomposing remains of a woman inside an abandoned cistern.

After years of dead ends, a DNA sample was finally obtained from Flesher's youngest daughter to confirm the identity.

Woman charged in machete attack

MA SHARON — A woman police said used a foot-long serrated machete to attack three men in a Massachusetts

THE CENSUS

10 The number of abandoned boats Oregon officials removed from the water at Portland's Swan Island in the first of several cleanups. Marine Industrial Contractors used two barges to remove and transport the boats, some of which were along the shoreline and others which were partially submerged in the lagoon. Marine Board spokeswoman Ashley Massey said the cleanup effort will cost approximately \$18,000 and includes taking the boats to a storage facility, removing hazardous or recyclable materials and dismantling each boat.

hotel parking lot was held without bail pending a hearing to determine whether she is dangerous.

Allison Maitland, of Hanson, faced charges of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon causing serious injury and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

Police said Maitland and her boyfriend were in a vehicle in a Sharon hotel parking lot making “sexual” noises when one of three other men said “get a room.”

An attorney for Maitland said she was defending her boyfriend, who was being beaten by the three men.

Taser used to stun man with knife in precinct

NY NEW YORK — New York City police used a Taser to stun a man who walked into their precinct wielding a knife and asking officers to shoot him.

After he entered the police precinct, the man is seen standing still holding the weapon and he's quickly surrounded by officers with guns drawn. One deploys a Taser and the man drops backward to the floor.

Police said the man was treated at a hospital for minor injuries.

African elephant moves to new home in Atlanta

CA SAN DIEGO — An African elephant that spent a decade at San Diego Zoo Safari Park moved across the country to a new home at Zoo Atlanta.

The Union-Tribune reported that 30-year-old Msholo arrived last week at the Zambi Elephant Center.

Msholo and two female African elephants, Kelly and Tara, will be the main attractions at Zoo Atlanta's new African Savanna habitat, which opens Aug. 8.

Suburb accepts school supplies for fines

KS OLATHE — A Kansas City suburb is allowing people to pay their parking fines with school supplies.

KMBC-TV reported that the city of Olathe is offering the option through Aug. 16.

Items that are being sought include No. 2 pencils, 1- and 3-inch three-ring binders and single-subject spiral notebooks.

City officials said only up to \$50 in school supplies can be donated per person.

Woman accused of punching lifeguards

MD OCEAN CITY — A Maryland woman was accused of punching two lifeguards as they tried to stop a fight.

The Daily Times of Salisbury reported Jennifer Cameron, 23, was charged with second-degree assault in the July 7 fight.

Charging documents said beach patrol members intervened when Cameron and two men began causing a disturbance.

Court documents say the fight reportedly started when a member of a nearby family threw sand at Cameron.

From wire reports

FACES

totally **TARANTINO**

Ranking the polarizing filmmaker's works from worst to first

By TRAVIS M. ANDREWS
The Washington Post

No modern filmmaker is more divisive than Quentin Tarantino. There are those who adore him and obsess over every detail in each film, and there are those who are not bothering to read this piece. The former love ranking his movies (and debating those rankings) ad nauseam, and we're right there with them. So to honor the release of last week's "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood," let's do just that.

We considered only the nine films he wrote and directed, meaning that, sadly, "True Romance" and (less sadly) "From Dusk Till Dawn" were not eligible. And while we rank his movies from worst to best, it's worth noting that the "worst" is still pretty great.

Without further ado, let the arguments begin.

9. 'Reservoir Dogs' (1992)

The characters in "Reservoir Dogs" didn't talk like movie characters; they talked just like any group of pop culture-obsessed friends might, their dialogue peppered with both mainstream and obscure references — only these dudes had a penchant for cutting off ears while dancing to catchy pop tunes. High and low culture lived alongside each other in a way the silver screen had never seen. Legions of moviegoers stared with open mouths, thinking: Wait, you can do that?!

Tarantino's work would only grow more complex, empathetic and engaging along with his career. But "Reservoir Dogs" forever changed the language of modern film — for good or ill, depending on your opinion.

7/8 'Kill Bill: Vols. 1 and 2' (2003, 2004)

Originally conceived and filmed as a single movie, then broken into two rough-and-ready parts, the "Kill Bill" movies can best be described as Tarantino's id. The director grew up on kung fu movies and always wanted to make his own grindhouse epic. When he got his chance, he stuffed it with everything he could — including an anime sequence — until it reached its breaking point. But it never bursts.

But for as much dazzling moviemaking as Tarantino poured into both volumes, it would never work without Uma Thurman. She brings pathos, fury and even humor to the Bride, transforming her into a compulsively watchable, utterly unlikely feminist icon.

6. 'The Hateful Eight' (2015)

Of the director's nine primary films, "The Hateful Eight" had, by far, the worst critical reception. Even positive reviews tended to disparage the sadistic violence laced throughout the story. Though Tarantino movies are always divisive, this one struck a nerve.

The movie takes place about a decade after the Civil War, when eight strangers of wildly different backgrounds and beliefs find themselves stuck in a cabin. Philosophical debates turn violent, and a whodunit slowly emerges from what amounts to a bleakly beautiful stage play. The movie is unabashedly about the story of America — how some wounds never heal, some divisions never mend.

5. 'Django Unchained' (2012)

Homage to a 1960s spaghetti western? Check. Violent revenge fantasy? Check. A controversial grenade lobbed into the "woke" blogosphere? Check.

In the second of Tarantino's alternate history films, Jamie Foxx's freed slave Django takes gleeful revenge on those who did him wrong, including the despicable, disgusting slave owner Calvin Candie, played against type by heart-throb Leonardo DiCaprio. It's the best showcase of Tarantino's ability to shift between popcorn fun and dark, shocking commentary before offering a bloody ending that, in this case, feels nothing less than cathartic.

4. 'Once Upon a Time in Hollywood' (2019)

Tarantino's latest film just boasted his biggest opening weekend to date, which isn't surprising. Tarantino adores movies above all else, and "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood" is nothing if not a nostalgic love letter to the very land where it's set. As a result, audiences get what might be



Leonardo DiCaprio and Brad Pitt in "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood"

Tarantino's warmest film, an adjective not often used to describe his work.

DiCaprio gives one of his most committed and vulnerable performances as semi-washed-up actor Rick Dalton, and Brad Pitt gives a pained but amusing performance as second banana Cliff Booth.

3. 'Pulp Fiction' (1994)

Tarantino's second film shares a lot of DNA with his first — the pop culture diatribes, the pulpy crime, the unexpected violence — but in "Pulp Fiction," he introduced a few new elements. First, there's the elliptical, puzzle-box nature of the plot, which is told in a series of disordered vignettes, heightening the story's tension (and requiring a bit more concentration from the viewer). Second, there's the reviving of a fading career, namely John Travolta's, that casts the actor in a completely new light.

It's been repeatedly called the most influential movie of the 1990s, despite losing the Oscar for best picture to "Forrest Gump." But what might be its most important legacy is just how quotable and rewatchable it is.

2. 'Jackie Brown' (1997)

"Jackie Brown" was greeted less than warmly by audiences expecting another "Pulp Fiction." The two movies share a lot in common: crime, talkiness, Samuel L. Jackson. But this one, based on the Elmore Leonard novel "Rum Punch," had something else: a beating heart.

The movie focuses on people who usually end up as secondary characters: flight attendants, ex-cons, bond bailsmen and the like. Here, they're all chasing ... \$500,000. That's it. While there's still a meta aspect here — Pam Grier and Robert De Niro, in particular, play with their celebrity images, the former taking a star turn while the latter grumbles and mumbles his way through the picture — there's also a sad but touching sense that everyone is doing the best they can with what they have. Tarantino wouldn't produce a film this warm again until "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood."

1. 'Inglourious Basterds' (2009)

Perfection is an illusion, sure, and the quest for the perfect film is a futile one. But Tarantino came close with his alternate-history World War II epic. It contains pieces of all his best friends. Like "Pulp Fiction," it's a puzzle box.

Like "Jackie Brown," it plays with character type. Like "Once Upon a Time," it's nostalgic for the good parts of a bygone era. Like "Django Unchained," it's deeply satisfying as a cathartic experience. Like all his movies, it introduces wonderful new actors to American audiences, such as Melanie Laurent and Christoph Waltz.

But what truly stands out is the painstaking craftsmanship that went into it. Though there is the violence you'd expect in a war movie, like all Tarantino's films, it's really about the conversations — conversations in which the balance of power between countries, between races, between enemies is constantly shifting. What's more impressive is the fact that most of the movie doesn't take place in English — despite being an American film. And yet we easily understand everything.



Christoph Waltz in "Inglourious Basterds"



Quentin Tarantino appears at the TCL Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles last month to promote "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood."

ERIC CHARBONNEAU/Sony Pictures

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OPINION

Public health techniques can slow gun violence

By MICHELLE A. WILLIAMS
AND MARY T. BASSETT

Special to the Los Angeles Times

This summer, U.S. cities have experienced unconscionable spikes in gun violence.

Just this past weekend 12 people were shot, one fatally, in Brooklyn, N.Y., and a mass shooting in Gilroy, Calif., left three dead. In early June, Chicago witnessed 92 shootings during a single weekend, including 10 fatalities. In Washington, D.C., 19 people were shot in five days, including 11-year-old Aaron Brown, killed in a car on the way to football practice. Nine people were shot during one eight-hour period in Baltimore this month.

Even in Boston, which sees lower levels of gun violence than most major U.S. cities, at least 19 people have been shot since July 3, and the city's nonfatal gun injuries have risen by nearly 20% since 2018.

After the recent spate of Boston shootings, Mayor Marty Walsh told the state's strong gun laws are "not enough to lower the city's levels of violence." "You still have a weekend like this. And it makes you think, God, what more can you do? But there has to be more."

There is. To truly address gun public health issues, we need to view them through a public health lens — one that reframes the issue as a preventable disease that can be cured with the help of all community members. This disease-control approach to gun violence is an effective one. Cure Violence, for example, a Chicago-based nongovernmental organization, uses a public health perspective to help cities around the world reduce their gun violence levels. Under its model, outbursts of violent behavior are responded to with three common epidemic-control methods: interrupting transmission, containing the risk and changing community norms. Cities that have applied these methods have seen as much as a 33% drop in shootings and killings. So what would this approach look like writ large?

First, American cities will need to in-

vest more resources in evidence-based conflict diffusion. In the 1990s, Boston launched Operation Ceasefire, a "focused deterrence" model developed by David Kennedy at the Harvard Kennedy School that advocated for direct communications between police, gang members, clergy and other community members and led to a 63% reduction in youth homicides. This intervention model has since been adopted in American cities like Oakland, Calif., to great effect. In his new book, "Bleeding Out," researcher and Harvard Kennedy fellow Thomas Abbot concludes that "focused deterrence had the strongest and most consistent anti-violence effects."

Yet such prevention efforts in American cities are poorly and sporadically funded. A dearth of federal research dollars for violence prevention has slowed progress in implementing prevention programs, in part owing to a lack of big data. Still, we are slowly starting to see more cities and states invest major dollars in gun violence prevention programs.

Funding also remains consistent, however. In cities that have continued and expanded their investments in focused deterrence, the gains have lasted. In Oakland, for example, the number of gun deaths has been halved since 2012. But in Philadelphia, where the Focused Deterrence approach was piloted, no positive effect, funding has stayed flat, the program has not been able to expand and gun violence is once again on the rise. Proven intervention programs need not only to be implemented but maintained and expanded — something that can ultimately save taxpayers' money on expensive medical care and incarceration.

There's a role for individual residents too. Those concerned about gun violence — which should be all of us — can support local organizations that work with their city's highest-risk residents in Boston, for example. In Chicago, the Gunfire Partners with some of the city's most at-risk boys and men, providing them with social and economic capital through career tracks in

personal training. My Brother's Keeper Alliance, an initiative founded by former President Barack Obama, provides mentorship to high-risk boys of color. Operation LIPSTICK works with women in local health clinics to help them avoid the trap of straw purchasing. And the National Network of Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Programs supports prevention work in hospitals and trauma centers. Prioritizing donations to any of those initiatives would help those most disproportionately affected by gun violence.

Finally, we should all work to change our community norms around gun violence. Most victims in our cities live in poverty and are people of color; these gun violence inequities make it easier for other city residents to minimize their own threat and for media outlets to deprioritize coverage.

Psychological distance from these shootings does not lessen our responsibility to act. All concerned residents can and should prioritize the safety of their neighbors by fighting against misrepresentations of gun violence victims and perpetrators — including in the media — and learning more about the social injustices that transpire at the root of our cycles of violence. One resource is the Healing Hurt People initiative, developed in part by former Boston City Hospital physician John Rich, which is harnessing digital storytelling to tell survivors tell their stories in their own words.

As public health educators and researchers, we firmly believe there is no disease we cannot cure, gun violence included. But no epidemic can be eradicated without the efforts of a village. One's own sense of safety should never lead to complacency when it comes to shootings in our American cities. Before we read about the next spate of gun violence, let each of us consider new ways to combat this unacceptable contagion.

Michelle A. Williams is dean of Harvard's T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Mary T. Bassett is director of the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard and former commissioner of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

AFRICOM can make fishing fair for nations in its AOR

By HERMAN J. COHEN

Special to Stars and Stripes

The world is quickly running out of seafood. The United Nations has found that 90% of all fisheries are either fully fished or overfished. For now, fish are plentiful in Africa's waters, a potentially sustainable source of protein and revenue for a region deprived of both. But much of that potential is being stolen by foreign fishing fleets engaged in illegal poaching, hamstringing African prosperity while creating new security crises. U.S. Africa Command is aware of this issue. It should now consider assigning the problem higher priority. As the Trump administration begins to reformat its Africa strategy, putting an end to dangerous illegal fishing must be a top priority.

China is by far the most aggressive culprit, although fleets from the European Union and elsewhere are also stealing Africa's fish. With each year a country in its own waters after decades of irresponsible overfishing, the Chinese government is providing billions in subsidies for fishing crews to sail to Africa. There they freely plunder, covered by collusive relationships with corrupt officials. A combination of oversight, perfunctory regulation and sparse domestic and international resources devoted to protecting African seas.

The Africa Center for Strategic Studies, a research faculty at the National Defense University, calls illegal foreign fishing "a threat to human security." Starvation is endemic in Africa, but with foreign fleets

stealing its fish, Africa has become the only region where fish consumption is declining, according to the ACSS, threatening lives and livelihoods. Fishing employs millions of Africans and generates billions of dollars in economic activity in impoverished nations. These generally artisanal fisheries are simply outclassed by foreign rivals operating with impunity and armed with government-subsidized ships.

Illegal fishing's role in piracy is another cause for concern. As African nonproliferation and intelligence reporting partners Stop Illegal Fishing reports that foreign trawlers sabotage local fishermen by cutting their nets on the way to unloading enormous catches onto their mother ships. These local fishermen have increasingly resorted to piracy, as both a form of protest and a means to live — attacking not just fishing ships, but also tankers, chemical tankers, and more. It took years for an international coalition supported by the U.S. Navy to stem this piracy problem off the coast of Somalia. Thanks in large part to illegal fishing, West Africa's coast, and especially off Nigeria, has since become perhaps the world's most dangerous waters.

Stopping government oversight among African nations will be crucial to ending illegal fishing. Holding corrupt local officials accountable would be a good start. New international agreements should be forged to eliminate loopholes and foster genuine oversight. At a minimum, existing agreements between the EU and some African countries, the United Nations Port State Measures should be reevaluated

and expanded. These records, which limit catches and the number of boats operating at any one time, have worked well in tertiary fisheries. But they failed to protect fisheries in deeper waters, where foreign vessels avoid ports by using mother ships.

Yet without the resources necessary for maritime protection, there is little that African coastal governments can do to protect their waters. This is where the U.S. military could be especially helpful, and there is precedent. In 1978, the USAID financed a project in Guinea-Bissau, Senegal and Mauritania in which the U.S. Coast Guard helped train and equip these governments to enforce fishing restrictions. These were not complex operations. Each country's navy had two patrol boats and two surveillance aircraft used to search for and confront illegal fishing boats. It ought to be possible to do something similar again, with even more impressive results.

Washington will need to act for AFRICOM to address this issue with the vigor it deserves. Diplomacy will also play a key role. "It is unlikely that foreign fishing would persist at its current intensity in Africa if subsidies were phased out," wrote the ACSS. Washington ought to pressure foreign governments to end those subsidies and instead invest in sustainable fisheries. Otherwise, this global food crisis will deepen, with dire implications for human security.

Herman J. Cohen is a former ambassador and adviser to presidents who served 38 years in the Foreign Service.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Apple profits fall as iPhone sales sputter

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Apple's iPhone sales are still sputtering while the company tries to offset the decline by milking more money from digital services such as music.

The latest evidence of the iPhone's waning popularity had been expected. Even so, the confirmation in Tuesday's fiscal third-quarter earnings report underscored the challenges facing a company that has been riding the smartphone revolution for the past decade.

The iPhone's downturn is the main reason Apple's profit for the April-June period fell 13% to \$10 billion.

The good news is Apple has several ways it can still make money from the 900 million iPhones in use today. Besides selling new models to current iPhone owners after the current devices eventually wear out, Apple has positioned itself to make billions of dollars more from music, video and gaming subscriptions, maintenance plans and commissions from apps selling their own wares on iPhones.

The bad news is that Apple has still been relying on the iPhone for more than half its revenue so far this year, and the company hasn't proven it can be as adept at peddling digital services as it has been at making sleek devices. For instance, Apple's 4-year-old music streaming service still lags Spotify. Apple is preparing to launch a video streaming service more than a decade after Netflix pioneered the concept.

And a recently opened U.S. Justice Department investigation is expected to look into whether Apple unfairly favors its own ser-



RICHARD VOGEL/AP

Apple Inc. reported a 13% decline in profits for the April-June period, due in part to a decline in its iPhone sales.

vices and gouges others through its app store, raising the specter of changes that could further depress its revenue.

"Apple has become a victim of its own success and there also appears to be a lack of urgency," Chatham House Partners analyst Colin Gillis said. "Apple is still the iPhone company and it may always end up being the iPhone company."

The lingering doubts hanging over Apple are one reason why Apple's stock price remains well below its peak of \$233.47 reached last October, even as the rest of the market has soared to record highs. The company's shares gained 4% to \$217.55 in extended trading after the release of its numbers for the April-June period.

The rally may have stemmed from another encouraging sign that emerged in the quarterly re-

port. Apple's total sales in China decreased by 4% in the quarter compared with a year ago after plunging 25% during the first half of the company's fiscal year. That dramatic improvement eased fears that the Trump administration's trade war in China might trigger a consumer boycott of Apple's products in the country in retaliation.

"We couldn't be happier with the progress," Apple CEO Tim Cook said during a Tuesday conference call. He credited both Apple's own price cuts and economic stimulus programs rolled out by China's government to counteract the effects of U.S. tariffs.

Worldwide revenue from iPhones during the quarter totaled \$26 billion, a 12% decrease from the same time last year. It marks the third straight quarter of eroding iPhone sales, something that has happened only

once before.

Apple is forecasting its total revenue for the July-September period will fall from last year, a sign that it is bracing for yet another drop in iPhone sales. That's particularly striking because Apple typically gets a big boost from the release of new iPhone models in late September.

But the mid-range projection

of \$62.5 billion of revenue for the period was better than the \$60.9 billion anticipated by analysts, providing another sign of hope for investors betting on Apple's resilience.

Even with the iPhone in decline, Apple remains a financial powerhouse. Total revenue grew 1% from last year to \$53.9 billion.

The services division remains the biggest area of growth, with revenue surging 13% from last year to \$11.5 billion in the past quarter.

EXCHANGE RATES

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South Korean won (Aug. 1)	1,132.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769
British pound	\$1.2228
Canada (Dollar)	1.3130
China (Yuan)	6.8842
Denmark (Krone)	6.7022
Egypt (Pound)	16.539
Euro	\$1.1142/6.8975
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8277
Hungary (Forint)	292.78
Israel (Shekel)	3.5007
Japan (Yen)	108.60
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3043
Norway (Krone)	8.7778
Philippines (Peso)	50.81
Poland (Zloty)	3.85
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7599
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3684
South Korea (Won)	1,181.90
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8907
Thailand (Baht)	32.70
Turkey (Lira)	5.2079

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom or nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.25
Discount rate	3.00
Federal funds market rate	2.40
3-month bill	2.06
30-year bond	2.58

MARKET WATCH

July 30, 2019

Dow Jones Industrials	-23.33
	27,198.02
Nasdaq composite	-19.72
	8,273.61
Standard & Poor's 500	-7.79
	3,013.18
Russell 2000	16.57
	1,585.80

WEATHER OUTLOOK

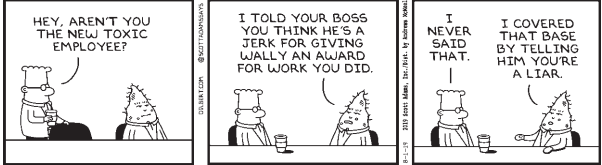


The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

Frazz



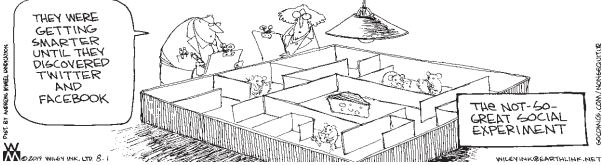
Dilbert



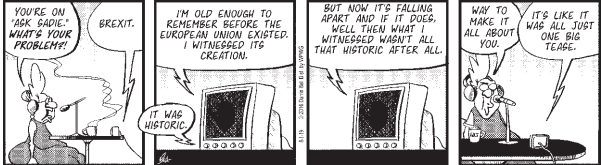
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



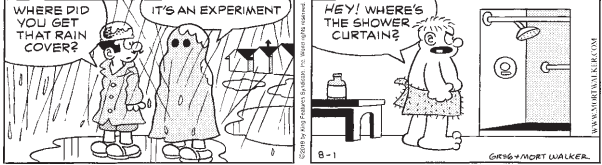
Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18					19			20	21			
			22						23			
24	25	26			27	28	29			30	31	
32					33				34			
35			36	37					38			
			39					40	41			
42	43				44	45			46	47	48	
49					50	51			52			
53					54				55			
56					57				58			

- ACROSS**
- 1 Teri of "Tootsie"
 - 5 Attempt
 - 8 Locus
 - 12 On the briny
 - 13 Caviar
 - 14 "Mad Money" network
 - 15 Roster
 - 16 — tear (raging)
 - 17 Rat- —
 - 18 Portable PC
 - 20 Joker portrayal
 - 21 Cesar
 - 22 Sushi fish
 - 23 Earth Day mo.
 - 24 Twaain here
 - 27 Instrument in a Dixieland band
 - 32 Employ
 - 33 Melody
 - 34 Brit. record label
 - 35 Retailer's revenue
 - 38 Harrow rival
 - 39 Triumphed
 - 40 Silly Putty container
 - 42 Derivative sounds
 - 45 Brain, slangily
 - 49 Ripped
 - 50 Greek mountain
 - 52 Tehran's country
 - 53 BPOE members
 - 54 Texter's chuckle
 - 55 Tizzy
- DOWN**
- 1 Chutzpah
 - 2 Nepal's continent
 - 3 Breathing (Abbr.)
 - 4 Wicker material
 - 5 Jungle-like
 - 6 Director Howard
 - 7 Once around the sun
 - 8 Shrimp recipe
 - 9 Place to surf
 - 10 Ski lift type
 - 11 Outside (Pref.)
 - 19 "I see"
 - 21 Crew tool
 - 24 Gaiety
 - 25 British verb ending
 - 26 ABC and Fox, e.g.
 - 28 Fib
 - 29 Ammunition stores
 - 30 Punk-rock subgenre
 - 31 Can metal
 - 36 Most miffed
 - 37 Busy insect
 - 38 Vain person
 - 41 "Monopoly" square
 - 42 Dance move
 - 43 The Big Easy acronym
 - 44 Ledge
 - 46 Bond foe
 - 47 Cannes milk
 - 48 Tolkien creatures
 - 51 Fawn's mama

Answer to Previous Puzzle

C	A	P	S	C	A	W	I	B	I	S
A	S	E	A	I	L	E	C	A	N	T
Y	A	R	D	S	A	L	E	I	K	E
S	P	U	D	S	B	R	E	E	Z	Y
				L	E	A	D	I	R	S
C	A	F	E	C	O	B	B	A	B	E
A	V	I	S	L	U	E	S	L	A	G
T	A	R	T	U	B	A	D	E	M	O
				E	M	U	T	R	I	O
R	E	S	I	N	S			S	U	D
E	L	A	L	C	A	S	H	S	A	L
E	L	L	A	U	N	I	E	L	B	A
K	E	E	N	D	D	S	S	E	A	L

8-1

CRYPTOQUIP

V T T F A V X L Y E H I K G V X T O
E B T V P A K B G H E B L K L O X T
I E V C G S Y T L B L Y L V
F T H K L O T F " C V A S T P B G G
P I G O B . "

Yesterday's Cryptquip: PEOPLE SHOULD BE VERY PRUDENT WHEN SELECTING BEVERAGE CONTAINERS. CHOOSE YOUR BOTTLES WISELY!
Today's Cryptquip Clue: K equals L


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- Free ads are available only DOD ID Card holders selling personal merchandise.
- Ads may contain up to 32 words. All Ads must contain price and contact information. No websites will be accepted in Free ads.
- Stars and Stripes reserves the right to re-classify, rewrite and reject any ads.

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Classifieds EUROPE

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Announcements 040

SCAM FADS

Classifieds scams can target both sellers and buyers with classifieds advertisements.

Be aware of the common red flags.

Some of the latest Scam fads are:

- 1 Vehicle buyers wanting to buy sight unseen and have the vehicle shipped through an agent using paypal.
- 2 People saying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.

Automotive 140

SELLER BEWARE

Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. Stars and Stripes suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. Stars and Stripes is not liable for the contractual relationship between sellers and buyers of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the web site.

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Free Europe-wide delivery

Education 430

Certified teachers needed
Inquire Kids Learning Center
kic.mackenzie@gmail.com

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SCOREBOARD

Sports on AFN

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules.
myafn.net

Pro basketball

WNBA			
EASTERN CONFERENCE			
	W	L	Pct
Connecticut	14	6	70.0
Washington	13	6	68.4
Chicago	12	9	57.1
Phoenix	9	12	42.9
New York	8	11	42.1
Los Angeles	11	8	57.6
Atlanta	5	15	25.0
WESTERN CONFERENCE			
	W	L	Pct
San Jose	14	6	70.0
Las Vegas	13	8	61.3
Seattle	12	9	57.1
Portland	9	9	50.0
Minnesota	10	10	50.0
Dallas	5	15	25.0

Tuesday's games
Washington 9p, Phoenix 9p
Connecticut 10p, Chicago 10p
Las Vegas 8p, Dallas 5p

Wednesday's games
Atlanta 7p, Indiana 7p
Thursday's games
Phoenix 7p, Connecticut 7p
New York at Dallas
Las Vegas at Los Angeles

Friday's games
Washington at Seattle

WNBA leaders			
Scoring	G	FG	FT
Griner, PHO	19	157	60
Bonner, PHO	19	137	50
Wiggins, SEA	19	130	80
Delle Donne, WAS	18	116	28
McClung, WFL	18	124	70
Ogumelu, MIN	18	116	47
Jones, CON	20	116	58
Wilson, LVA	19	108	58
Nurse, NYL	18	88	29
Campbell, LVA	15	53	13
DeShields, CHI	14	50	28
McClung, WFL	14	47	17
Sims, MIN	20	112	54
Fowles, MIN	20	127	28
Achorn, IND	17	48	20
Toliver, WAS	19	107	26
Hamby, LVA	16	86	16
Griner, PHO	15	109	24
Hayes, ATL	19	80	24
Gray, LAS	19	36	26
Mitchell, IND	19	28	12

FG Percentage			
	FG	FT	Pct
Fowles, MIN	127	217	58.5
Achorn, IND	72	130	55.4
Russell, SEA	127	133	51.1
Hawkins, WAS	127	133	51.1
Hamby, LVA	86	161	53.4
Griner, PHO	157	530	50.0
Dolson, CHI	102	150	68.0
Toliver, WAS	100	197	50.8
Quigley, CHI	98	198	49.5
Thomas, CON	95	192	49.5

Rebounds			
	G	OFF	DEF
Jones, CON	20	63	142
Fowles, MIN	18	135	195
Ogumelu, LAS	17	47	108
Campbell, LVA	19	34	125
McClung, WFL	18	37	108
Delle Donne, WAS	16	22	110
DeShields, CHI	14	21	103
Thomas, NYL	15	110	145
Charles, CON	20	63	99
Wendol-Holt, LAS	15	50	105

Assists			
	G	AST	AVG
Vandersloot, CHI	20	173	8.6
Wheeler, NYL	19	163	8.6
Thomas, WAS	19	108	2.5
Toliver, CON	20	112	5.6
McClung, WFL	17	71	4.2
Gray, LAS	19	105	5.5
McClung, WFL	14	61	4.4
Sims, MIN	20	106	5.3
Canada, SEA	18	97	5.4

Golf			
PGA money leaders			
Through July 28	Trn	Money	Trn
1. Jin Young Ko	15	\$1,645,015	15
2. Jeon Eun-yeon	14	\$1,324,774	14
3. Brooks M. Henderson	15	\$1,270,193	15
4. Jin Young Ko	15	\$948,948	15
5. Jin Young Ko	15	\$887,887	15
6. Han Seon-yeon	14	\$874,716	14
7. An Byeong-hun	14	\$723,125	14
8. Han Seon-yeon	14	\$711,318	14
9. Han Seon-yeon	14	\$690,266	14
10. Han Seon-yeon	14	\$686,114	14
11. Han Seon-yeon	14	\$659,342	14
12. Han Seon-yeon	14	\$620,377	14
20. Angel Yin	15	\$583,919	15

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Tennis

World Team Tennis

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	11	2	.846	—
San Diego	8	5	.615	3 1/2
Springfield	8	6	.538	4
Orange County	6	7	.462	5 1/2
Vegas	6	7	.462	5 1/2
Washington	2	11	.154	9

Tuesday's matches

Philadelphia 25, New York 15			
San Diego	25	15	15
Springfield	25	15	15
Orange County	25	15	15
Vegas	25	15	15
Washington	25	15	15

Stilicon Valley Classic

Tuesday			
AT 5:50 Tennis Center			
Surface: Hard-Outdoor			
Singles			
Donna Knepper, Croatia, def. Misaki Doi, Japan, 6-4, 3-6, 6-2			
Zhang Saisai, China, def. Heather Watkinson, Australia, 6-4, 6-2			
Daniela Collins (8), United States, def. Zhang Shuai, China, 6-4, 5-7, 6-2			
Karen Satchik, 18, Orlando, def. Harmony Tan, France, 6-2, 6-4			
Madison Brengle, United States, def. Venus Williams, United States, 6-4, 6-2			
Madison Brengle, United States, def. Venus Williams, United States, 6-4, 6-2			

First Round

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First Round

First Round

Jonathan Erlich, Israel, and Divijayaran, India, def. Ben McLachlan, Japan, and John-Patrick Smith, Australia, 7-5, 6-1.

Hans Hach, Mexico, and Dennis Novikov, United States, def. Marcelo Arevalo, El Salvador, and Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela, Mexico, 7-5, 6-3.

SOCCE/TRACK AND FIELD/GOLF



FRANCOIS MORIAU/AP

Jill Ellis is stepping down as coach after leading the US women's soccer team to back-to-back Women's World Cup titles. Ellis led the team in 127 matches with 102 wins.

Ellis resigns as US coach

Women's national team in flux with new GM, Olympics on horizon

By ANNE M. PETERSON

Associated Press

Fresh off of a repeat performance as World Cup champions, the U.S. women's national team finds itself in flux.

On Tuesday, Jill Ellis announced she was stepping down after more than five years as the team's head coach. Under Ellis, the United States won eight total tournaments, including two World Cups, and lost just seven games.

Meanwhile, U.S. Soccer is in the process of naming the team's new general manager, who will report to President Carlos Cordeiro and chief executive officer Dan Flynn. The GM, expected to be appointed soon, will lead the search for a new coach.

Ellis, the national team's third female coach, hopes it will be another woman.

"I think there are a lot of qualified females. You also hope by doing it people have trust a female can do this," she said. "People have seen it and people potentially want to aspire to coach, not just soccer but whatever sport. You really hope that is part of the legacy you leave behind."

Once named, the new coach will be taxed quickly with preparing the team for Olympic qualifying and next summer's Tokyo Games. Ellis said she'd be there for her successor: "I want whoever comes next to know that there will be that support."

Hanging over all of the immediate uncertainty is the legal dispute between the women's team and U.S. soccer. The players filed a federal lawsuit last March accusing the federation of gender discrimination in matters including pay.

The lawsuit capped a long-simmering dispute between the

federation and the players, who claim they deserve to make as much as their counterparts on the men's national team.

The two sides have agreed to mediation now that the World Cup is over.

Ellis steps away after winning back-to-back titles in soccer's premier global tournament. Her contract was set to expire following the World Cup, and she said Tuesday she started to think months ago about leaving following the event in France.

She'll stay with the team through its five-game victory tour, which starts Saturday against Ireland at the Rose Bowl. After that, she'll serve as an ambassador for U.S. Soccer for at least a year.

Ellis said she wants to spend more time with her family.

"The timing of this is good. Not only on a personal level but also for the program in terms of preparing to start a new cycle," she said. "It's obviously been a fantastic run and fantastic ride. I'm going to enjoy these last few games."

The top-ranked U.S. team has been dominant throughout Ellis' tenure. The team went undefeated in the 2015 World Cup in Canada en route to a 5-2 victory over Japan in the title match. The United States gave up just three goals in the tournament.

The U.S. defeated the Netherlands last month to claim its second straight championship — pulling off challenging knock-out victories over No. 4 France and No. 3 England. The Americans never trailed at the tournament and set records with 26 goals and a 12-game World Cup winning streak. Ellis became the first coach to lead a team to two Women's World Cup titles.

But there were also moments

of disappointment. The defending champions were knocked out in the quarterfinals in the 2016 Brazil Olympics by Sweden, the team's earliest departure ever in the tournament. Afterward, there was some grumbling behind the scenes as Ellis shifted players and experimented with tactics.

Overall, Ellis led the team in 127 matches with 102 wins. She coached the team for more games than any of her seven predecessors.

Ellis became head coach in 2014, promoted after taking over on an interim basis following the dismissal of Tom Sermanni. She also served as interim coach after Pia Sundhage resigned in 2012.

She was an assistant to both and was on the staff of the gold medal-winning teams at the Beijing and London Olympics. She also served as head coach at UCLA for 12 seasons.

"This is not a job that someone sits in for 10 years," Ellis said. "Change is good. A position like this should not be forever."

On the same day that Ellis announced her resignation, Sundhage was introduced as the new head coach of the Brazilian women's team. Asked about some of the changes she plans to implement, Sundhage said Brazil needs "an American mentality" and "Swedish organization" to win more.

Ellis hasn't decided on her next move. Her decision to leave wasn't entirely unexpected, although many thought she'd stay on through the Olympics.

"I just need to take a step back and take it all in and see what next intrigues me and piques my interest," she said.

The U.S. is set to play Portugal on Aug. 29 in Philadelphia, and on Sept. 3 in St. Paul, Minn.

Semenya won't defend 800 title after court setback

Associated Press

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — Caster Semenya won't defend her title in the 800 meters at the world championships this fall after a Swiss court overturned a temporary ruling that allowed her to compete in international events without taking testosterone-suppressing drugs.

Semenya is locked in a court battle with the IAAF, track and field's governing body, over rules that require her to take the drugs to counter her naturally high testosterone levels. On Tuesday, a judge from the Swiss Federal Supreme Court reversed a June ruling that had temporarily thrown out the IAAF regulations upheld by the Court of Arbitration for Sport while her appeal is pending.

Semenya, a 28-year-old from South Africa, was legally classified as female at birth and has identified as female her whole life. She was born with the typical male XY chromosome pattern and a condition that results in male and female biological characteristics and testosterone higher than the typical female range. The IAAF has argued that athletes with her condition are "biologically male," an assertion that Semenya calls "deeply hurtful."

"I am very disappointed to be kept from defending my hard-earned title, but this will not deter me from continuing my fight for the human rights of all of the female athletes concerned," Semenya said in a statement.

She is a two-time Olympic cham-

pion in the 800, including in 2012 when she was taking hormone suppressants, which she said had side effects including weight gain, nausea, fevers and abdominal pain. Tuesday's ruling means she cannot compete in events ranging from the 400 to the mile. The world championships are Sept. 28-Oct. 6 in Doha, Qatar.

Semenya has pledged not to take drugs to lower her testosterone again and said she could drop down to sprints or scale up to longer distances if she can no longer compete in the 800, her signature event.

In April, the CAS upheld IAAF's regulations governing athletes with Semenya's condition, known as "difference of sex development." Semenya appealed to the Swiss federal court, which has limited power to review the CAS decision.

The court found that Semenya's appeal "does not appear with high probability to be well founded," in part because the court is bound by the CAS finding that Semenya's condition "has a direct impact on performance in sport, which could never be achieved by other women."

Dorothee Schramm, the lawyer leading Semenya's appeal, said Tuesday's decision was a setback but not a defeat.

"The judge's procedural decision has no impact on the appeal itself. We will continue to pursue Caster's appeal and fight for her fundamental human rights," Schramm said. "A race is always decided at the finish line."

Spieth adds event to help get to East Lake

By DOUG FERGUSON

Associated Press

Jordan Spieth hasn't played the Wyndham Championship since he lost in a playoff to Patrick Reed in 2013, a finish that allowed him to start the FedEx Cup playoffs in the top 10. He returns to Greensboro, N.C., facing a little more urgency.

"I would like to make East Lake. That's my goal now," Spieth said.

Spieth is at No. 67 in the FedEx Cup. Under the new schedule, he will have two playoff events to get in the top 30 and qualify for the Tour Championship at East Lake. It made sense to play one more tournament to boost his position. That could mean playing six straight weeks if he makes it to East Lake, but having missed the Tour Championship last year, he felt it was worth it.

"I really want to get back there," he said. "I didn't like missing that last year, and (I'm) coming in fur-

ther behind this year than I was last year."

Still unsettled in the shorter postseason as how high in the standings he'll have to be to get beyond the first playoff event. The top 125 are eligible for The Northern Trust next week at Liberty National, and the top 70 advance to the BMW Championship at Atlanta.

The extra playoff event last year meant the top 100 advanced to the second stage, and then the top 70 to the BMW Championship.

Other players have more pressing matters than East Lake, such as keeping their full PGA Tour cards.

Alex Noren is at No. 125 in the FedEx Cup and by two points over Austin Cook and Ricky Wrenski. Every player from No. 103 through No. 138 in the FedEx Cup is in the field at the Wyndham Championship. Dominic Bozzelli is in the most precarious spot. He is at No. 139 and was first alternate on Tuesday.

SPORTS BRIEFS/MLB



Nick Buoniconti gives two thumbs up while being introduced at the Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinees Civic Dinner in 2001.

Briefly

Miami Hall of Fame LB Buoniconti dead at 78

Associated Press

MIAMI — Pro Football Hall of Fame middle linebacker Nick Buoniconti, an undersized overachiever who helped lead the Miami Dolphins to the NFL's only perfect season and became a leader in the effort to cure paralysis, has died at the age of 78.

Buoniconti died Tuesday in Bridgehampton, N.Y., said Bruce Bobbins, a family spokesman. In recent years, Buoniconti struggled with symptoms of CTE, a degenerative brain disease associated with repeated blows to the head. He had recently battled pneumonia, Dolphins senior vice president Nat Moore said.

The 5-11, 220-pound Buoniconti was small for a pro linebacker, but went on to a 15-year career. He was captain of the Dolphins' back-to-back Super Bowl champions, including the 1972 team that finished 17-0.

Following retirement, Buoniconti and his son, Marc, worked to raise more than a half-billion dollars for paralysis research. The younger Buoniconti was paralyzed from the shoulders down making a tackle for The Citadel in 1985.

Buoniconti also worked as an attorney, a broadcaster, as president of U.S. Tobacco and as an agent to raise money as Bucky Dent and Andre Dawson. For 23 seasons he was co-host of the weekly sports show "Inside the NFL" on the HBO cable network.

Buoniconti was chosen for the all-time AFL team in 1970, and for the NFL Pro Bowl in 1972 and 1973.

DAMON J. MORITZ/AP

Power for Bauer: Indians get big bats Puig, Reyes

By TOM WITHERS
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The Indians added some power — and a little punch — for their playoff push.

Still chasing the homer-happy Minnesota Twins in the AL Central, Cleveland traded temperamental starter Trevor Bauer to the Cincinnati Reds on Wednesday in a three-team deal that landed the Indians two big bats to fill their power void, Yasiel Puig and Framil Reyes.

The Indians, who have cut first-pitcher Minnesota's lead from 11½ games to three, dealt Bauer to the Reds for Puig and left-hander Scott Moss. The Indians also acquired Reyes, lefty Logan Allen and infield prospect Victor Nova from San Diego. The Padres acquired outfielder Taylor Trammell from the Reds.

Bauer's exit was nearly as stunning as his final start for Cleveland.

His trade was completed three days after the quirky right-hander with undeniable talent along with a difficult side, angrily threw a ball from behind the mound over the center-field wall in Kansas City. Bauer called the act "childish" and was fined by Major League Baseball. It may have been the final straw for the Indians, who managed to get back five players to help in their playoff push and beyond.

Puig, who literally left Cincinnati swinging following another brawl with the Pirates on Tuesday night, and Reyes have 49 combined homers this season. They'll give manager Terry Francona some additional lineup options as well as a needed power surge.

The three teams agreed to the seven-player swap Tuesday, but medical reports didn't get approval until just hours before the trade deadline.

Dealing Bauer is not without risk for the Indians. Though he can be challenging, Bauer is a workhorse and at times has been the club's best pitcher this season while two-time Cy Young winner

Corey Kluber (broken arm) and Carlos Carrasco (Jenkens & Gilchrist) have been sidelined. But Kluber and Carrasco are expected back in the weeks ahead, and the Indians have activated Danny Salazar, a 2016 All-Star whose career has been slowed by injuries.

"Over the last several weeks, we explored the trade market in an effort to enhance our competitive position, both by supplementing our major league roster and infusing young talent into the organization," Indians President of Baseball Operations Chris Antonetti said. "We appreciate Trevor's contributions to the organization in his time with us and while it's never easy to part with a player of his caliber, we feel we've traded from an area of depth to help bolster our major league club for this year and the foreseeable future."

The bold move was applauded by Indians fans, many of whom were soured by the team's cost-cutting offseason when owner Paul Dolan demanded a slash in payroll, forcing Antonetti and general manager Mike Chernoff to make some difficult decisions. The Indians did not re-sign All-Star outfielder Michael Brantley and traded slugger Edwin Encarnacion, first baseman Yonder Alonso and catcher Yan Gomes.

It's not clear when Puig will arrive in Cleveland. But he sure had a memorable departure in Cincinnati.

The muscular outfielder was involved in another benches-clearing brawl between the Reds and Pirates, Ohio River rivals who have exchanged beanballs, taunts and a fair share of punches this season.

Puig, who had 22 home runs, 61 RBIs and 14 steals in 100 games in his abbreviated season with the Reds, was in the middle of Tuesday's fracas, which began with Cincinnati reliever Amir Garrett rushing the Pirates' dugout and throwing punches at anyone in a wearing black and gold. It was similar to the scene in April, when Puig charged a group of

Pirates players near home plate during a wild game.

Puig was suspended two games for those actions, and he could be facing another penalty for the latest Reds-Pirates dustup. The Cuban-born outfielder has a career .271 average with 130 homers and 391 RBIs in 812 games. He is eligible for free agency after the World Series.

The hulking 24-year-old Reyes has a big swing and is full of potential. The 6-foot-5, 275-pounder has hit 27 homers and 46 RBIs while batting .255 in 99 games with the Padres this season, and gives Francona a right-handed bat to complement a lineup loaded with lefties.

Bauer heads down Interstate 71 to Cincinnati, where he'll join a Reds team with slim playoff hopes but potential. At 49-56, the Reds are in fourth place in the NL Central, 7½ games back of first-place St. Louis. This may not be their year, but Bauer, who angered the Indians last winter with comments about character assassination after he beat them in salary arbitration, will join Luis Castillo and Sonny Gray to form a solid starting nucleus.

Cincinnati assumes the \$4,193,548 remaining on Bauer's \$13 million salary while Cleveland takes on the \$3,129,032 left in Puig's \$9.7 million salary.

In other trade news on Wednesday:

■ The Milwaukee Brewers traded slugging slugger Jesus Aguilar to the Tampa Bay Rays, a person familiar with the deal told The Associated Press.

The Brewers are getting right-handed reliever Jake Fraley, according to multiple reports.

Aguilar was an All-Star last year, hitting 35 home runs with 108 RBIs for the NL Central champion Brewers. But the 29-year-old first baseman got off to a slow start this season and is hitting .225 with eight homers and 34 RBIs this year.

The 26-year-old Faria has a 2.70 ERA in seven games for Tampa Bay.

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TONY DEAK/AP

Houston starting pitcher Justin Verlander scattered two hits over seven innings Tuesday and struck out 13 in the Astros' 2-0 shutout of the Indians in Cleveland.

Verlander fans 13, Astros blank Tribe

Houston ace first AL pitcher with 14 wins

By STEVE HERRICK
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Justin Verlander was on top of his game Tuesday night.

Verlander struck out 13 to reach double figures for the third straight start and sixth time this season, leading the Houston Astros over the Cleveland Indians 2-0.

In a matchup of All-Stars, Verlander (14-4) outpitched Shane Bieber and won his fourth consecutive start, tying Washington's Stephen Strasburg for the major league lead in wins. Verlander allowed two hits in seven innings and walked none for the sixth time in 23 starts this year.

Verlander had been 9-16 with a 5.56 ERA in 28 career starts at Cleveland coming in.

"I exorcised some demons here today," he said. "I haven't pitched well in this ballpark, and to do it against a great pitcher in Bieber, that was good."

He allowed one runner to reach second. Cleveland's only hits were singles by Roberto Perez leading off the third and Greg Allen starting the sixth.

Verlander made his 53th career start against the Indians.

"I gather as much information as I can through scouting reports and asking questions, but the more important thing was I

had 14 years of instinct to use today," he said. "I trust my eyes, I trust what I see, and I process all of that when I'm facing a team that I'm very familiar with."

Indians manager Terry Francona was impressed by the dominating performance.

"If you watched, he had everything — fastball, offspeed, couple varieties of changeup," he said. "It's one of those nights where as a manager you're sitting there and you're rooting your guys on, but you're also glad you're not in the batter's box."

Cleveland, the AL wild-card leader, struck out 15 times. Will Harris fanned two in a perfect eighth and Roberto Osuna followed with a 1-2-3 ninth for his 24th save in 28 chances.

Houston, the AL West leader, won its third straight. Verlander and Gerrit Cole top the rotation but the Astros have been seeking help for the back end ahead of Wednesday's trade deadline.

Bieber (10-4) gave up two runs and nine hits in seven innings with eight strikeouts and one walk. He had been 4-0 in six starts since losing at Texas on June 20.

"Biebs pitched terrific," Francona said. "That lineup gives you no ... there's no breath. They come at you one through nine. Give the kid credit. We've seen him do that before."

Rundup

Puig goes out swinging in final game with Reds

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Jared Hughes' errant pitch threw a load of fuel on one of the majors' most flammable rivalries.

Call it Pirates vs. Reds, round two — and a fitting farewell for Yasiel Puig.

Hughes hit Starling Marte with his first pitch in the ninth inning Tuesday night, setting the stage for the latest dust-up between the Ohio River rivals. Four Pirates and four Reds were ejected in Pittsburgh's 11-4 win, including Puig, who was in the process of being traded.

"The ball just slipped and it was real unfortunate and a lot of bad things happened afterward," Hughes said.

And it's not over.

Reds manager David Bell faces a suspension for coming back onto the field and going after Pirates manager Clint Hurdle during the fracas. Bell had already been ejected for arguing a strike call an inning earlier.

And there was Puig, who's headed to Cleveland as part of a three-team deal for starter Trevor Bauer, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the trade had not been announced.

Puig prolonged the fight that started when Reds reliever Amir Garrett went toward the Pirates dugout and threw several punches.

Puig's summary of the inning: "That's crazy."

The NL Central rivals have been going at each other for years. The nastiness resumed this season when Derek Dietrich admired his homer at PNC Park in April, touching off a fracas.

Braves 11, Nationals 8: Adam Duvall had two home runs and four hits, Josh Donaldson added a three-run homer and visiting Atlanta beat Washington to reopen a 5½-game lead in the NL East.

Julio Teheran (6-7) allowed two runs and seven hits in 6⅓ innings for Atlanta.

Rays 6, Red Sox 5: Avisail Garcia homered and added the go-ahead, two-run double in the sixth inning of visiting Tampa Bay's win over Boston.

Diamondbacks 4, Yankees 2: Rookie Taylor Clarke (4-3) scattered three hits over 5⅓ innings and Arizona got home runs from Christian Walker and Carson Kelly to beat host New York.

Dodgers 9, Rockies 4: Kristopher Negron homered in his first at-bat with visiting Los Angeles, one of four home runs in a win over Colorado.



JOHN MINICHILO/AP

The Reds' Yasiel Puig is restrained by Pittsburgh Pirates third baseman Colin Moran during the ninth inning Tuesday's game in Cincinnati. Four Pirates and four Reds were ejected.

The Dodgers became the first team in the majors to reach 70 wins and increased their lead in the NL West to 15 games over San Francisco.

Cardinals 2, Cubs 1: Paul Goldschmidt homered for the seventh time in eight games, a go-ahead drive off Yu Darvish (3-5) in the sixth inning that lifted host St. Louis into sole possession of the NL Central lead.

Phillies 4, Giants 2: Drew Smyly (2-5) tossed seven shutout innings and Rhys Hoskins homered to lead host Philadelphia over San Francisco.

Orioles 8, Padres 5: Chris Davis hit a go-ahead home run in the eighth inning to snap an 0-for-18 slump, and visiting Baltimore rallied from a four-run deficit.

Twins 2, Marlins 1: Byron Buxton homered and Jake Odor-

izzi (12-5) followed his worst big league start by pitching one-run ball into the sixth inning, leading visiting Minnesota past Miami.

Mariners 8, Rangers 5: Kyle Seager had a solo homer, a tie-breaking two-run triple and drove in four runs using Seattle stretched its winning streak to six games.

Blue Jays 9, Royals 2: Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit a grand slam in the ninth inning to give him a career-high five RBIs, Sean Reid-Poley tossed five innings of four-hit ball in visiting Toronto's win over Kansas City.

Mets 5, White Sox 2 (11): Noah Syndergaard put aside trade talk to turn an eighth-inning lead over to his relievers, and visiting New York rebounded from another bullpen meltdown when Jeff McNeil and Michael Conforto hit consecutive home runs in the 11th.

Angels 6, Tigers 1: Matt Thaiss homered and drove in three runs, Shohei Ohtani had three hits, and Griffin Canning (4-6) threw four-hit ball over six innings as host Los Angeles beat Detroit.

Athletics 3, Brewers 2 (10): Matt Olson homered with one out in the 10th inning off Josh Hader and host Oakland beat Milwaukee to win its third straight.

NFL

Holdout ends for Saints WR

Thomas agrees to five-year deal

By BRETT MARTEL
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — The New Orleans Saints and leading receiver Michael Thomas have agreed to a new five-year, \$100 million contract, his agent said Wednesday.

Andrew Kessler of the agency Athletes First, who joined colleague David Mulugheta in negotiating the deal with the Saints, said the contract pays Thomas about \$61 million in guaranteed salary and bonuses.

The agreement, first reported by NFL Network, brings to an end Thomas' training camp holdout that spanned five practices.

The Saints had a scheduled day off on Wednesday and Thomas was expected to join practice on Thursday.

Currently, Thomas' average annual pay of \$20 million represents a new high for NFL receivers, eclipsing the \$18 million per

year paid to Cleveland's Odell Beckham Jr.

Last season, Thomas ranked first in the NFL in catches with 125, sixth in yards receiving with 1,405 and tied for 10th with nine touchdowns.

Thomas has established himself as an elite receiver with 321 catches for 3,787 yards and 23 touchdowns in his first three NFL seasons.

But other top NFL receivers, including Atlanta's Julio Jones and Dallas' Amari Cooper, are nearing the ends of their current contracts and could be in line for similarly lucrative extensions.

Thomas was entering the final season of his rookie deal and was due a little more than \$1.1 million. Cooper entered training camp in the final year of his deal, but hasn't held out. Jones is under contract through 2020.

The sticking point in the Thomas negotiations had more to do



Bill Fera/AP

Wide receiver Michael Thomas missed five practices while holding out for a new contract.

with the structure of the deal than the average annual value. The Saints wanted wiggle room under the NFL salary cap to also negotiate extensions with a number of other promising young players whose contracts will expire in coming years, such as running back Alvin Kamara and top cor-

nerback Marshon Lattimore. "We're going to do a deal that we feel works for us regardless of what other teams may or may not do," Saints' general manager Mickey Loomis said last week, when Thomas failed to report for camp. "I understand (Thomas)' thinking. He wants to be paid the

value that he perceives himself."

Thomas plays in an offense that was among the NFL's best long before he arrived. Run by record-setting quarterback Drew Brees and designed by coach Sean Payton, the Saints' offense has been one of the NFL's most productive for nearly a decade and a half.

Star: Keys were handed to Mahomes when Chiefs traded Smith

FROM BACK PAGE

Mahomes was anointed the starter last offseason, when the Chiefs shipped Alex Smith to the Redskins, but his arrival at training camp came with plenty of question marks: Could his big arm buck the trend of Red Raiders quarterbacks flaming out in the NFL? Could he run coach Andy Reid's complex offense? Could he live up to the expectations that come with being a first-round draft pick?

He answered all those questions in the season opener against the Chargers. In the awkward setting of a soccer stadium in Los Angeles, the mop-haired Mahomes threw four touchdown passes without a pick.

He threw six touchdown passes the next week in Pittsburgh. Three more against San Francisco. And he led the Chiefs to a 5-0 start before a road loss to New England, only to rebound with four more wins.

Mahomes wound up shattering the franchise records for completions (383), yards passing (5,097) and touchdown passes (50), along with more obscure metrics such as quarterback rating.

He finally led the Chiefs to a home playoff win, their first in nearly two decades, and nearly beat the Patriots in the AFC title game. The teams headed to overtime tied 31-all, the Patriots won the coin toss and marched downfield for the winning touchdown, denying Mahomes a chance with the ball.



CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

Patrick Mahomes earned the nickname "Showtime" last year, when the Chiefs fell one victory short of the Super Bowl.

It was a nightmare ending to an otherwise dream season.

"Every win and every loss you use going into the next season," Mahomes said. "Obviously, we were super close to making the Super Bowl and we fell just short of that, but we're going to keep progressing forward and keep learning from that game, learn from what we didn't do as well."

Mahomes spent the offseason working on his footwork, which has always caused him trouble. He often gathered his wide receivers for impromptu passing

sessions under the hot Midwestern sun. And he even made time to throw some passes to them when they took a quick trip to Turks and Caicos.

Yes, he somehow found time for plenty of football amid his many other demands.

Mahomes watched the Red Raiders in basketball's national semifinals in April, then landed on the Madden cover later that month. He signed a series of sponsorship and endorsement deals, walked the red carpet at the ESPY Awards, and left Kim-

By the numbers

383

Number of pass completions by Chiefs QB Patrick Mahomes last season, his first as starter.

5,097

Number of passing yards by Mahomes last season, a franchise record.

50

Number of TD passes by Mahomes last season, also a franchise record.

SOURCE: Associated Press

mel laughing on his show just a few weeks ago.

"That nickname of 'Showtime?'" Sounds about perfect.

His magnetic personality and otherworldly talent also has had a big impact on the Chiefs. Record

crowds showed up for the first two days of training camp last weekend, where his No. 15 jersey outnumbered all others by about 2-to-1, and ticket sales for the upcoming season are skyrocketing.

"You look at the impact he's had on our business, it's multi-layered," Chiefs president Mark Donovan said. "He has benefited us in terms of a lot of our big partners are partners with Patrick. It is a great activation point, and that's creating opportunities for other players."

Mahomes is wise enough to understand it could all be gone in a flash, though. He saw firsthand how quickly stars can fade in professional sports from hanging around big league clubhouses with his father, pitcher Pat Mahomes, and his godfather, longtime relief pitcher LaTroy Hawkins.

That's why he learned to say "no," this offseason, trying to strike a balance between work, business and pleasure. He showed up to training camp in better shape, the baby fat that he brought into the league replaced by lean muscle, and he exuded a certain self-assurance that was missing a year ago.

"I mean, he had a lot of confidence last year," Kelce said, "but this year he has confidence in a new direction. Last year it was just confidence in, 'Hey, I'm just going to figure it out.' But now he has a lot more things figured out and now it is more confidence in taking this team to the Super Bowl."

NFL

Falcons looking for answers at RB behind Freeman

By CHARLES ODUM
Associated Press

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. — A healthy Devonta Freeman can't answer all the Atlanta Falcons' questions at running back.

Even if Freeman avoids injury after missing 14 games in 2018, the Falcons still must replace Tevin Coleman, the former second part of the team's running back tandem.

As the Falcons prepare for their preseason opener against Denver in Thursday night's Hall of Fame game in Canton, Ohio, there is no leader in the competition to be Freeman's backup. Several contenders have flashed different strengths in training camp, creating the possibility of a deeper rotation than in recent years.

Coach Dan Quinn says that's not necessarily a bad thing.

"Today I would say it would be a different kind of shared role," Quinn said after Monday's practice. "I'm not discouraged by any of them at all. I'm more encouraged," Quinn said, adding, "There hasn't been a separation" in the competition.

Second-year back Ito Smith ran for 315 yards and four touchdowns before a season-ending knee injury last year.

The team's first depth chart of the preseason also includes Brian Hill, Kenjon Barner, rookie Qadree Ollison and Tony Brooks-James.

"That's a lot of weapons at running back," Quinn said.

Quinn mentioned Hill's improvement and said Barner's versatility is suited for "third-down stuff."

Barner, who played with Carolina in 2018, drew a gasp from fans on Monday when he caught a pass from Matt Ryan and made a cut to dodge a defender, opening up first-down yardage.

"I think there's a lot of depth,

for sure," Ryan said. "We've got a lot of good players. That's a good problem to have. We feel confident in all of them. It will be fun to see those guys compete when they get on the field and showcase what they can do when it's live action."

Freeman and most other starters will see little playing time against Denver. Quinn has said the extra preseason game will be a showcase for young players.

Freeman appears to be making a strong recovery from last season's groin injury. Quinn says Freeman is a "multiplier" in that his presence makes his teammates better. It's clear that Freeman's return is a key for the Falcons' hopes of returning to the playoffs, especially after Coleman signed with San Francisco.

"We're counting on everybody," Freeman said Sunday. "I can't do it without the offensive linemen, the quarterback, the receivers, without the defense. We can't do it without each other. It feels good to add to my team and help my brothers out."

With a healthy Freeman, the Falcons ranked fifth in the league in rushing in their 2016 Super Bowl season. Even with Freeman missing two games in 2017, Atlanta ranked 13th.

The Falcons fell to 27th in rushing last season as Freeman played in only two games. Quinn wasn't happy with the drop in production or the diminished emphasis on the running game. Dirk Koetter was hired as offensive coordinator, replacing the fired Steve Sarkisian, with a mandate to revive the ground game.

Freeman's constant smile is the best indicator he feels good about his outlook for the season. His moves on the field are another good sign for Quinn.

"He looks exactly as we remember him in his best space," Quinn said.



JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

Running back Devonta Freeman is a key to the Falcons offense, but he has been limited by injury in recent years, making it a priority for Atlanta to find a capable backup, especially since Tevin Coleman left in the offseason for San Francisco.



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

Broncos quarterback Drew Lock, front, warms up as Brett Rypien looks on during a training camp practice at the team's headquarters Tuesday in Englewood, Colo. Both are expected to play Thursday.

3 QBs set for Denver debut

Hogan, two rookies will audition for chance to back up starter Flacco

By ARNIE STAPLETON
Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — None of the Broncos' four quarterbacks have ever taken a snap for them in a game. Three of them will make their Denver debut Thursday night against the Atlanta Falcons in Canton, Ohio.

Joe Flacco, acquired in a trade with Baltimore last winter, will sit out the Hall of Fame Game that kicks off the NFL exhibition slate along with most of the Broncos' other starters.

Rookies Drew Lock and Brett Rypien will get some work against Atlanta behind Andrew Luck's school record. Hogan has made just one start in his three-year pro career, for Cleveland in 2017.

Hogan, who didn't take a single snap behind Case Keenum last season, said he was eager for his first start for the Broncos this preseason.

"Whoa! I'm not used to this," Hogan exclaimed when he stepped in front of the media pack Tuesday.

A heady QB whose 36 wins at Stanford broke Andrew Luck's school record, Hogan has made just one start in his three-year pro career, for Cleveland in 2017.

Hogan, who didn't take a single snap behind Case Keenum last season, said he was eager for his first start for the Broncos this preseason. "I feel like I've put a lot of good work in the offseason and camp, grown within the offense, within this system, thank the coaching points," Hogan said. "So, I just want to go out and prove that I can execute the offense, be an efficient quarterback and score some points."

Hogan realizes his audition

'I just want to go out and prove that I can execute the offense, be an efficient quarterback and score some points.'

Kevin Hogan
Broncos backup QB

isn't necessarily for the Broncos, who see Flacco as the unchallenged starter in 2019 and Lock, a second-round pick from Missouri, as the franchise's future.

"Yeah, I'm realistic. Everyone's self-aware. But at the same time you've got to control what you can control and I'm just worried about me," Hogan said. "I believe if I can push myself to my potential and keep getting better, then there will be a place for me, whether it's here" or elsewhere.

"I'd love to be here. I love our room. I love our coaching staff and love being a Bronco," Hogan said. "So, I'm going to go out and make the most of this opportunity."

Flacco and Lock are unquestionably the ones that the Broncos' brass and their fans are eager to see play this summer. Lock gets that chance first while Flacco will have to wait until Aug. 8 against Seattle.

"Of course when I go out there, I'm going to be a little fired up to show people what I can do and definitely bring the juice that I brought through college," Lock said.

Unlike in years past, there's no open quarterback competition at training camp, except to see who will back up Flacco, and Hogan

said he understands the hype surrounding Lock.

"He's very talented and eager to get better," Hogan said. "A great guy to have in the room and you know the talent's there, and it's just about getting reps and experience and he's going to be around for a long time."

First, Lock has to adjust to the pro game after taking precious few snaps under center in college, where he relied on his athleticism — he grew up playing basketball, too — at ad-libbing when plays broke down or his primary read was covered.

The coaches aren't expecting Lock to make the jump all at once.

"It's a journey," offensive coordinator Rich Scangarello said. "In the end, it takes time to mature as a quarterback in the NFL. There are no shortcuts."

Lock said he wasn't bothered by being the backup to the backup to start out.

"I think you'll still see the same me. I'm confident in what I can do," Lock said. "Whether I go in at the beginning of the game or go in at the end of the game, I'm going to be the same guy and prove to people that one day I should be starting these games."

SPORT



Bauer traded

Indians deal pitcher to Reds,
get Puig, Reyes » **MLB, Page 29**

NFL

STAR

Term already
a perfect fit
for Mahomes

By DAVE SKRETTA
Associated Press

Patrick Mahomes spent this past offseason riding horses through the surf and throwing passes on the beach, swapping jokes with Jimmy Kimmel and hobnobbing with celebrities on the red carpet.

He's the cover boy for this year's Madden video game. The Texas Tech die-hard who followed his alma mater all the way to the Final Four. The sports fan that suddenly pops up at the Stanley Cup Final, then makes sure to congratulate the St. Louis Blues on his uber-popular social media channels.

Mahomes also is the face of the Kansas City Chiefs, the reigning NFL MVP and without question the biggest star to land in the City of Fountains since George Brett was playing third base for the Royals.

"He's a rock star," Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce said.

One that was largely undiscovered just a year ago.

SEE STAR ON PAGE 30

'Every win and every loss you use going into the next season. ... We were super close to making the Super Bowl and we fell just short.'

Pat Mahomes
Chiefs QB
on overtime loss
in AFC title game

Inside:

- Broncos trying to find Flacco's backup, Page 31
- Falcons need another running back, Page 31
- Thomas, Saints agree on 5-year deal, Page 30



JOHN SLEEZER, KANSAS CITY STAR/TNS

Patrick Mahomes has become a star after only one season as Kansas City's starting quarterback, leading the Chiefs to the AFC championship game and setting franchise records for passing yards (5,097) and touchdown passes (50).

US women's team coach Ellis steps down » Soccer, Page 26



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